Vol. LXIX—No. 1.

Assembly Proceedings

Official Report

Bengal Legislative Assembly

Twentieth Session

The 16th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 27th and 28th February and 1st, 2nd, 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th March, 1945.

WEST BENGAL LEGISLATURE LIBRARY
Acc. No. 8650
Dated 10.4.2001
Call No. 328.01/230
Price, Rupee Rs. 2-10

Superintendent, Government Printing,
Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal
1945

GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

His Excellency the Right Hon'ble RICHARD GARDINER CASEY, C.H., D.S.O., M.C.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN, K.C.I.E., in charge of the Home (Civil Defence Co-ordination) Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY, in charge of the Department of Civil Supplies.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI, in charge of the Finance Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN, in charge of the Education Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN, in charge of the Department of Communications and Works.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN, in charge of the Department of Agriculture (Rural Reconstruction).

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA, M.B.E., in charge of the Revenue Department (Evacuation and Relief).

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur, in charge of the Judicial and Legislative Departments.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN, C.B.E., in charge of the Departments of Commerce, Labour and Industries (including Post-War Reconstruction).

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA, in charge of the Forests and Excise Department.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD, in charge of the Department of Public Health and Local Self-Government.

The Hon'ble Mr. PULIN BEHARY MULLICK, in charge of the Publicity Department.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL, in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department.

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

PRINCIPAL OFFICERS OF THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

SPEAKER.

The Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI.

DEPUTY SPEAKER.

SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY, Esq.

SECRETARY.

K. ALI AFZAL, Esq., BARRISTER-AT-LAW.

FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

AJITA RANJAN MUKHERJEA, ESQ., M.SC., B.L.

SECOND ASSISTANT SECRETARY.

Khan Sahib Qazi SADRUL OLA.

REGISTRAR.

Maulvi MD. NAJIBULLAH.

PANEL OF CHAIRMEN.

(1) Kiran Sankar Roy, Esq.
(2) J. R. Walker, Esq.
(3) Shamsuddin Ahmed, Esq.
(4) Dr. Sir A. F. Rahman.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

A

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md. [Narayanganj East (Muhammadan).]
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza. [Tangail West (Muhammadan).]
Abdul Hafiz Mia, Mr. [Kurigram South (Muhammadan).]
Abdul Hakeem, Mr. [Khulna (Muhammadan).]
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi. [Mymensingh West (Muhammadan).]
Abdul Hakim Vikrampuri, Maulvi Md. [Munshiganj (Muhammadan).]
Abdul Halim Molla, Mr. Muhammad. [Nadia West (Muhammadan).]
Abdul Hamid, Mr. A. M. [Pabna West (Muhammadan).]
Abdul Hamid Shah, Maulvi. [Kishoreganj North (Muhammadan).]
Abdul Jabbar, Maulvi. [Dinajpur Central East (Muhammadan).]
Abdul Jabbar Palwan, Mr. Md. [Jamalpur North (Muhammadan).]
Abdul Kader, Mr. [Patuakhali South (Muhammadan).]
Abdul Karim, Mr. [Jamalpur *cum* Muktagacha (Muhammadan).]
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi. [Manikganj West (Muhammadan).]
Abdul Majid, Maulvi. [Mymensingh North (Muhammadan).]
*Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed. [Noakhali South (Muhammadan).]
Abdul Motaleb Malik, Dr. [Nadia East (Muhammadan).]
Abdul Wahab Khan, Khan Bahadur. [Bakarganj West (Muhammadan).]
Abdul Wahed, Maulvi. [Mymensingh East (Muhammadan).]
*Abdulla-Al Mahmood, Mr. [Serajganj North (Muhammadan).]
*Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M. [24-Parganas North-East (Muhammadan).]
Abdur Rahman Siddiqi, Mr. (Muslim Chamber of Commerce.)
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md. [Birbhum (Muhammadan).]
Abdur Raschid Mahmood, Mr. [Serajganj North (Muhammadan).]
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Maulvi S. [Howrah (Muhammadan).]
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah. [Rangpur South (Muhammadan).]
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi. [Feni (Muhammadan).]
Abdus Shaheed, Maulvi Md. [Dacca North Central (Muhammadan).]

*Parliamentary Secretary.

Abidur Reza Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Chandpur West (Muhammadan).]
Abu Hossain Sarkar, Maulvi. [Gaibandha North (Muhammadan).]
Abul Fazl, Mr. Muhammad. [Madaripur West (Muhammadan).]
Abul Hashim, Maulvi. [Burdwan (Muhammadan).]
Abul Hosain Ahmed, Mr. [Netrokona North (Muhammadan).]
Abul Masud, Maulvi Kazi. [Nator (Muhammadan).]
Abul Quasem, Maulvi. [Hooghly (Muhammadan).]
Aftab Ali, Mr. (Water Transport Trade Union.)
Ahmed Ali Enayetpuri, Khan Bahadur Maulana. [Jhenidah (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi. [Goalundo (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed Hosain, Mr. [Gaibandha South (Muhammadan).]
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed. [Noakhali South (Muhammadan).]
Alfazuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Midnapore (Muhammadan).]
Aminullah, Khan Sahib Maulvi. [Noakhali Central (Muhammadan).]
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md. [Rajshahi South (Muhammadan).]
Anwarul Azim, Khan Bahadur Md. [Chittagong South (Muhammadan).]
Asimuddin Ahmed, Mr. [Tippera Central (Muhammadan).]
Aulad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Manikganj East (Muhammadan).]
Azhar Ali, Maulvi. [Pabna East (Muhammadan).]

B

Badi Ahmed Chaudhury, Khan Bahadur Haji. (Chittagong Landholders).
Badrudduja, Mr. Syed. [Berhampore (Muhammadan).]
Banerjee, Mr. Pramatha Nath. [Burdwan North-West (General).]
Banerjee, Mr. Sibnath. [Howrah (Registered Factories).]
Banerjee, Dr. Suresh Chandra. [Calcutta and Suburbs (Registered Factories).]
Banerji, Mr. P. [24-Parganas North-West (General).]
Banerji, Mr. Satya Priya. [Rajshahi (General).]
Barat Ali, Mr. Mohammad. [Serajganj Central (Muhammadan).]
Barma, the Hon'ble Mr. Premhari. [Dinajpur (General).]
Barma, Mr. Puspajit. [Rangpur (General).]
Barman, Babu Shyama Prosad. [Dinajpur (General).]
Barman, Mr. Upendra Nath. [Jalpaiguri *cum* Siliguri (General).]
Basu, Mr. Jatindra Nath. [Calcutta North (General).]
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar. [Calcutta East (General).]
Bell-Hart, Miss P. B. (Anglo-Indian Constituency.)
Bhowmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra. [Midnapore East (General).]
Birkmyre, Sir Henry, Bart. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah (European).]
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan. [Nadia (General).]
*Biswas, Mr. Rasik Lal. [Jessore (General).]
Biswas, Mr. Surendra Nath. [Faridpur (General).]
Bose, Mr. Sarat Chandra. [Calcutta South (General).]

C

Chakrabarty, Mr. Jatindra Nath. [Rangpur (General).]
Chakrabarty, Babu Narendra Narayan. [Bogra *cum* Pabna (General).]
Chattopadhyay, Mr. Haripada. [Nadia (General).]
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath. [24-Parganas Municipal (General).]
Chippendale, Mr. J. W. (Anglo-Indian.)
Clark, Mr. I. A. [Burdwan Division (European).]
Corstorphine, Mr. E. E. [Indian Tea Association (Commerce and Industry).]

D

Das, Babu Radha Nath. [Hooghly North-East (General).]
*Das, Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra. [24-Parganas North-West (General).]

*Parliamentary Secretary.

Das, Rai Bahadur Kirit Bhusan. [Murshidabad (General).]
Das, Babu Manmatha Nath. [Jhargram *cum* Ghatal (General).]
Das, Rai Sahib Monomohan. [Mymensingh East (General).]
Dass, Babu Debendra Nath. [Birbhum (General).]
Das Gupta, Babu Khagendra Nath. [Jalpaiguri *cum* Siliguri (General).]
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M. [Calcutta Central (General).]
Das Gupta, Srijut Narendra Nath. [Bakarganj South-West (General).]
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath. [Tippera (General).]
Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath. [Jhargram *cum* Ghatal (General).]
Dutt, Mr. Sukumar. [Hooghly South-West (General).]
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira. [Calcutta General (Women).]
Dutta Mazumdar, Mr. Niharendu. [Barrackpore (Registered Factories).]

E

Edbar, Mr. Upendranath. [Bakarganj South-West (General).]
Emdadul Haque, Kazi. [Kurigram North (Muhammadan).]

F

Farhad Raza Chowdhury, Mr. M. [Jangipur (Muhammadan).]
Farhat Bano Khanam, Begum. [Dacca (Muhammadan) Women.]
Fazlul Huq, Mr. A. K. [Patuakhali North (Muhammadan).]
Fazlul Qadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Chittagong North-West (Muhammadan).]
Fazlur Rahman, Khan Bahadur [Jamalpur East (Muhammadan).]
*Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca University.)
Ferguson, Mr. F. F. M. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

G

Ganguly, Mr. Pratul Chandra. [East Bengal Municipal (General).]
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna. [Jessore (General).]
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr. [Jamalpur West (Muhammadan).]
Gladding, Mr. D., C.I.E. [Bengal Chamber of Commerce.]
Golam Rabbani Ahammad, Maulvi. [Dinajpur Central West (Muhammadan).]
Golam Sarwar Hosaini, Mr. Shah Syed. [Ramganj *cum* Raipur (Muhammadan).]
Gomes, Mr. R. A. [Dacca Division (Indian Christian).]
Goswami, the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra. [Burdwan Division North Municipal (General).]
Griffiths, Mr. C. (Anglo-Indian.)
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra. [Calcutta South Central (General).]
*Gupta, Mr. J. N. [Railway Trade Union (Labour).]
Gurung, Mr. Damber Singh. [Darjeeling (General).]
Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Al-Haj. [Madaripur East (Muhammadan).]

H

Habibullah, Nawab Bahadur K., of Dacca. [Dacca Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi. [Thakurgaon (Muhammadan).]
*Hamiduddin Ahmad, Khan Sahib. [Kishoreganj East (Muhammadan).]
Hamilton, Mr. K. A. (Calcutta Trades Association.)
Hasan Ali Chowdhury, Mr. Syed. [Tangail North (Muhammadan).]
Hasanuzzaman, Khan Sahib Maulvi Md. [Tippera South (Muhammadan).]
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Bakarganj North (Muhammadan).]
Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M.B.E. [Calcutta (Muhammadan) Women.]
Hatemally Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi. [Pirojpur South (Muhammadan).]

*Parliamentary Secretary.

Haywood, Mr. Rogers. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Hirtzel, Mr. M. A. F., O.B.E. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Hodge, Mr. H. Rowan. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

I

Idris Ahmed Mia, Mr. [Malda South (Muhammadan).]
Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H., M.B.E. [Calcutta South (Muhammadan).]

J

Jalaluddin Ahmad, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Cox's Bazar (Muhammadan).]
Jalaluddin Hashemy, Mr. Syed. [Satkhira (Muhammadan).]
Jalan, Mr. I. D. [Calcutta West (General).]
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [24-Parganas South (Muhammadan).]
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi. [Chandpur East (Muhammadan).]

K

Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Netrokona South (Muhammadan).]
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed. [Murshidabad South-West (Muhammadan).]
Kennedy, Mr. I. G. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)
Khaitan, Mr. Debi Prosad. (Indian Chamber of Commerce.)
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall. [Midnapore Central (General).]
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra. [Malda (General).]
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath. [Dinajpur (General).]

L

Lahiri, Babu Ashutosh. [North Bengal Municipal (General).]
Leisk, Mr. John. [Calcutta and Suburbs (European).]

M

McIntosh, Mr. George, C.B.E. [Rajshahi Division (European).]
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Dr. [Bogra North (Muhammadan).]
*Mafizuddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib Maulvi. [Tippera North (Muhammadan).]
Maguire, Mr. L. T. (Anglo-Indian.)
Mahtab, Maharajadhiraja Bahadur Uday Chand, of Burdwan. [Burdwan Central (General).]
Maiti, Mr. Nikunja Behari. [Midnapore South-East (General).]
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar. [Burdwan Central (General).]
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova. [Dacca (General) Women.]
Majumdar, Babu Jnanendra Chandra. [Mymensingh East Rural (General).]
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra. [Midnapore South-West (General).]
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal. [Mymensingh West (General).]
*Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari. [Burdwan North-West (General).]
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra. [Faridpur (General).]
Mandal, Rai Sahib Jagat Chandra. [Tippera (General).]
Mandal, the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath. [Bakarganj North-East (General).]
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad. [Midnapore Central (General).]
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi. [Rajshahi North (Muhammadan).]
Maniruzzaman Islamabadi, Maulana Md. [Chittagong South Central (Muhammadan).]
Maqbul Hosain, Mr. [Tippera North-East (Muhammadan).]
Masud Ali Khan Panni, Al-Hadj Maulvi. [Tangail South (Muhammadan).]

*Parliamentary Secretary.

Method, Mr. J. H. [Calcutta and Suburbs (European).]
*Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur. [Bogra West (Muhammadan).]
Mohsin Ali, Mr. Md. [Meherpur (Muhammadan).]
Mookerjee, Dr. Syamaprasad. (Calcutta University.)
Morgan, Mr. G., C.I.E., [Presidency Division (European).]
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M. [Rajshahi Central (Muhammadan).]
Mozammel Huq, Maulvi Md. [Bhola North (Muhammadan).]
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed. [Pirojpur North (Muhammadan).]
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi. [Noakhali North (Muhammadan).]
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi. [Bogra South (Muhammadan).]
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi. [Kishoreganj South (Muhammadan).]
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed. [Bankura (Muhammadan).]
Muhammad Solaiman, Khan Bahadur Maulvi. [Barrackpore Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Mukerjea, the Hon'ble Mr. Taraknath, M.B.E., (Burdwan Landholders' Constituency.)
Mukerji, Mr. Dhirendra Narayan. (Hooghly North-East.)
Mukherjee, Mr. B. [Colliery (Coal Mines) (Labour).]
Mukherji, Dr. H. C. [Calcutta *cum* Presidency Division (Indian Christian).]
Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra. [Birbhum (General).]
Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh. [Bankura West (General).]
Mullick, Mr. Mukunda Behari. [Khulna (General).]
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Pulin Behari. [Howrah (General).]
Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur. [Jalpaiguri *cum* Darjeeling (Muhammadan).]
Mustagawsal Haque, Mr. Syed. [Bagerhat (Muhammadan).]
Mustafa Ali Dewan, Maulvi. [Brahmanbaria North (Muhammadan).]

N

Nandy, Maharaja Srischandra, of Cossimbazar. (Presidency Landholders.)
*Nasarullah, Nawabzada K. [Brahmanbaria South (Muhammadan).]
Nasker, Mr. Hem Chandra. [24-Parganas South-East (General).]
Nausher Ali, the Hon'ble Mr. Syed. [Jessore Sadar (Muhammadan).]
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E. [Calcutta North (Muhammadan).]
Nooruddin, Mr. K. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Norton, Mr. H. R., M.B.E. (Calcutta Trades Association.)

P

Pain, the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prosanna. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (General).]
Paul, Sir Hari Sankar. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)
Poddar, Mr. Anandilall. (Marwari Association.)
Powell, Mr. J. A. [Calcutta and Suburbs (European).]

R

Rahman, Dr Sir A. F. [Rajshahi Central (Muhammadan).]
Raikut, Mr. Prasanna Deb. [Jalpaiguri *cum* Siliguri (General).]
Rajibuddin Tarafdar, Maulvi. [Bogra East (Muhammadan).]
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr. [Tippera West (Muhammadan).]
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr. [Dacca South Central (Muhammadan).]
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra. [Mymensingh West (General).]
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy. [Dacca East (General).]
Roy, Mr. Kamalkrishna. [Bankura East (General).]
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar. [Dacca West (General).]
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath. [Howrah (General).]

*Parliamentary Secretary.

Roy, Mr. Patiram. [Khulna (General).]
Roy, Kumar Shib Shekhareswar. (Rajshahi Landholders.)

S

Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr. [Bakarganj South (Muhammadan).]
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji. [Rangpur North (Muhammadan).]
Sahabe Alum, Mr. Syed. [Dacca Central (Muhammadan).]
Salim, Mr. S. A. [Narayanganj North (Muhammadan).]
Sanaullah, Dr. [Chittagong North-East (Muhammadan).]
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha. [Presidency Division Municipal (General).]
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar. [Murshidabad (General).]
Sarker, Babu Madhusudan. [Bogra *cum* Pabna (General).]
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra. [Dacca East (General).]
Sen, Mr. Dhirendra Nath. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)
Sen, Rai Bahadur Jogesh Chandra. [24-Parganas South-East (General).]
Sen, Babu Nagendra Nath. [Khulna (General).]
Sen Gupta, Mrs. Nelli. [Chittagong (General).]
*Serajul Islam, Mr. [Bongaon (Muhammadan).]
Shahabuddin, the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E. [Narayanganj South (Muhammadan).]
Shahedali, Mr. [Matlabbazar (Muhammadan).]
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr. [Kusthia (Muhammadan).]
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr. [Gopalganj (Muhammadan).]
Shamsul Huda, Maulana. [Mymensingh South (Muhammadan).]
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath. [Rangpur (General).]
Singha, Maharaja Bhupendra Chandra, of Susang. (Dacca Landholders).
Sinha, Srijut Manindra Bhusan. [Bankura West (General).]
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda. [Bengal Dooars (Western) Tea Garden Labour.]
Smart, Mr. J. N. [Dacca Division (European).]
Smyth-Osbourne, Mr. D. G. [Darjeeling (European).]
Stark, Mr. A. F. [Calcutta and Suburbs (European).]
Stevenson, Mr. R. A. H. (Indian Tea Association).
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. [24-Parganas Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar. [Noakhali (General).]

T

Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr. [Faripur West (Muhammadan).]
Thakur, Mr. Promatha Ranjan. [Faridpur (General).]
Thorman, Mr. C. M. [Chittagong Division (European).]
Tofel Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi Haji. [Bhola South (Muhammadan).]

W

Waliur Rahman, Maulvi. [Jessore East (Muhammadan).]
Walker, Mr. J. R. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Walker, Mr. W. A. M., C.B.E. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)
Whitehead, Mr. R. B. (Indian Mining Association.)
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C., C.I.E. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

Y

Yousuf Mirza. [24-Parganas Central (Muhammadan).]
*Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr. [Faridpur East (Muhammadan).]

Z

Zahur Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi. [Malda North (Muhammadan).]
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A. [Hooghly *cum* Serampore (Registered Factories) Labour.]
Zillur Rahman Shah Chowdhury, Maulvi. [Balurghat (Muhammadan).]

*Parliamentary Secretary.

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY PROCEEDINGS

Official Report of the Twentieth Session.

Volume LXIX—No. 1.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 16th February, 1945, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 12 Hon'ble Ministers and 180 members.

Panel of Chairmen.

Mr. SPEAKER. In accordance with the provisions of rule 6 of the Bengal Legislative Assembly Procedure Rules, I nominate the following members of the Assembly to form a Panel of 4 Chairmen for the ensuing session :—

(1) Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy,

(2) Mr. J. R. Walker,

(3) Mr Shamsuddin Ahmed, and

(4) Dr. Sir A. F. Rahman;

unless otherwise arranged, the senior member among them present in the above order will preside over the deliberations of this Assembly in my absence and in the absence of the Deputy Speaker.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

*Question No. *62 held over on the 6th December, 1944.*

Recruitment of Inspectors, Auditors, etc., for Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NARAYAN MUKERJI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any age restriction was imposed in the last advertisement for the recruitment of Inspectors, Auditors, etc., for his department;

(*ii*) whether any fee was charged along with the submission of applications;

(*iii*) if so, at what rates;

(*iv*) what was the amount collected;

(*v*) whether there was any procedure for selection;

(*vi*) whether all the candidates who had deposited the necessary fees, were called for sitting at the examination;

(*vii*) how the selection of candidates was made to allow them to appear at the examination;

(*viii*) whether the candidates over the age-limit of 25 or 26 were asked to deposit the fees;

(*ix*) whether their cases were not considered by reason of age-limit imposed after receipt of their application forms and necessary fees;

(*x*) if so, how many such cases are there; and

(*xi*) whether any steps have been taken by the Department to refund the fees received from such candidates?

(*b*) Do the Government propose to form "Appointment Board" or some similar bodies to deal with such appointments?

Khan Bahadur A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal): The honourable member is referred to the reply given to starred question No. 424 of Mr. Sukumar Dutta on the 16th June, 1944.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to question (*v*), viz., "whether there was any procedure for the selection," to which the answer given on that date was "Yes", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which he was not in a position to state at that time what was the procedure adopted for selection?

Khan Bahadur A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: A Selection Committee was appointed with the Registrar, the Special Officer of the Co-operative Department and the Parliamentary Secretary. In the first instance there was a test. After that there was a Committee which held the *viva voce* examination and the selection was made.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in answer to the question then put by Sj. Narendra Nath Das Gupta the names of the few other candidates who had special claims and who had been allowed to sit for the examination though they had exceeded the age-limit to which the then answer was that "I want notice"?

Khan Bahadur A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: I still ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, it is really a matter of great importance and I want to invite your attention on a question of privilege to the fact that this question has been hanging fire. The honourable member has been pleased to answer directing the attention of this House to the answer given on the 16th June, 1944, and in that answer certain notices were required by him and evidently this question was hanging on the file with all the notices then given and I am specifically asking him now whether—that day he wanted notice for certain questions—he is still insisting on requiring a notice for the same?

Khan Bahadur A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: No formal notice was given.

Mr. SPEAKER: You know thoroughly well what this means. How can I help you?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I submit that no formal notice is needed. A ruling was given by the then Speaker, Sir Azizul Huque, that in case a member asks a question in the House and the Minister says in reply that he asks for notice it is for the Department to send that on to him and the honourable member has got nothing to do with it. It is the Minister who has got to take notice of that.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will look into that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state since June, 1944, up to the present time whether any of those persons who underwent training preliminary to appointment has been actually appointed or not?

Khan Bahadur A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: The training is not yet over and so no appointment has been made.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when was the training begun and how long it is proposed to continue the training?

Khan Bahadur A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: Training will be over in six months' time. I cannot give you the exact date when the training was begun.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In June, 1944, we were given to understand that they were under training. It is now February, 1945. We were also then given to understand in the question itself that six months' training would be required. Has not the six months already elapsed since June 1944?

Mr. SPEAKER: You know the calculation yourself.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is why I want to know whether any appointment has been made.

Mr. SPEAKER: The answer is "no".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what had happened to the sum of Rs. 7,540 collected from the intending candidates by way of fees that they had to remit along with their applications if no appointment had been made?

Khan Bahadur A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: It has been merged into the general revenues.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it the policy of the present Government to collect sums of money from intending applicants and then merge ths same into the general revenues?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a different matter altogether.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why persons having age beyond the limited age mentioned subsequent to the invitation of applications were allowed to sit for the examination?

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: On a point of order, Sir. Three or four assumptions are made and then the question is put.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I want the Chief Whip to equip himself with the answer then given before he tries to rise on such a frivolous point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have seen the question and also the answers. One answer is that no age-limit was imposed after the advertisement calling for application had been published and the other answer is that in addition, a few candidates who are already in Government service and a few others having special claims in the co-operative movement though exceeding the age-limit, were permitted to sit for the examination. Do you refer to that?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Your question proceeds on the assumption that this is beyond the conditions of the advertisement.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The answer specifically given was that certain age-limit was put and certain persons although having ages beyond that age were allowed to sit for the examination. So I ask why was it that this procedure was allowed.

Khan Bahadur A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: As required by the Audit Manual a specific age-limit was put.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why was the ordinary condition of imposing an age-limit relaxed in the case of certain candidates?

Khan Bahadur A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who were the fotunate few in whose cases the age-limit was not strictly imposed and special treatment was accorded?

Khan Bahadur A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, that question was asked on that very day, on the 16th June, and there also notice was required.

Mr. SPEAKR: You cannot argue on that point. I think you have finished.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No, Sir.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Why?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am trying to put the question only to expose the frivolity with which he is answering the question.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is of no use.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am prepared to ask question only to show that the Minister or the member concerned also does not look into the previous answer. That is a very dishonest way of answering questions.

Mr. SPEAKER: I wan't allow you to argue in that way. You may put your question if you have any.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to look up the answer given on the 16th June, 1944, and mention since when the practice of having Inspectors and Auditors appointed by the Head of the department and not with reference to the Public Service Commission been pursued?

Khan Bahadur A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: I stick to my original answer.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, my question has not been answered.

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your question?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You will find on page 422 of the proceedings the answer given to this question where I have asked whether references were made. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that for permanent Inspectors the Public Service Commission had to be approached for selecting such Inspectors. No answer was given and I invited the attention of the member to that answer.

Mr. SPEAKER: Now, what is your question?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: My question is since when the former practice of the Minister in charge as was mentioned in my question and as was pointed out that during the regime of Mr. Mukunda Behary Mullick the lists of candidates were drawn up on the recommendation of the local officers and sent to the Public Service Commission from the Secretariat for opinion was discontinued?

Khan Bahadur A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of Bengal has discontinued or is in any way considering the desirability of discontinuing the healthy practice of inviting the opinion of the Public Service Commission in the appointment of Inspectors and Auditors?

Khan Bahadur A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: I have no knowledge about it.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in any case the age-limit was condoned?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the answer is there. It was condoned.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many candidates were not required to deposit fees?

Khan Bahadur A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I invite the attention of the House to the answer given to the question of Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu on that day where he has specifically asked if no candidate was specifically asked to deposit fees and the answer then was that the Speaker disallowed the question. Thereafter Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu asked what were the exact conditions mentioned in the advertisement regarding depositing fees. The answer was "the conditions were published in the newspapers". I am now specifically seeking to find out whether apart from these references to the newspapers the member can throw any light on the fact whether any candidate was allowed to sit for the examination without depositing fees?

Khan Bahadur A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN: No candidate was allowed to appear without depositing fees.

(As soon as starred question No. 1 was called.)

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, I rise on a point of privilege. This question was asked, I presume, in 1943 with reference to the price of rice and effect of Food Drive in Bengal, but the answer to such a question has been given in 1945 which is also meagre and an insult to the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a different matter: I cannot answer for that.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: I also rise on a point of privilege, Sir, I draw your attention to Starred Question No. 1 which was tabled by me on 26th June, 1943, and sent by your office to the Government department on 8th July, 1943, and the answer was due on 12th July, 1943. But the answer is given now. I think it is useless to give an answer at this late stage.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry, I cannot do anything.

Price of rice and effect of Food Drive in Bengal.

*1. **Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing, district by district,—

(*i*) the price of rice as on the 30th June, 1943, and

(*ii*) the quantity of rice and paddy recovered during Food Drive in Bengal?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be also pleased to state—

(*i*) what quantity of the recovered rice and paddy will be released; and

(*ii*) what approximate quantity of rice is necessary for daily consumption in the Province?

MINISTER in charge of the CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT (Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) (*i*) A statement is laid on the Libr Table.

(*ii*) I presume that the honourable member refers to the stocks requ tioned by Government as a result of the Food Drive. A statement show the quantities of rice and paddy so requisitioned in each district is laid the Library Table.

(*b*) (*i*) Requisitioned stocks have been utilised primarily for meeti local needs and also for relief in other distressed areas of the Province.

(*ii*) 27,100 tons.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*a*) (*i*) w the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the prices quoted in tl statement relate to the actual prices on which transactions took place imaginary prices under control and reported by the officers concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: If there were any tra actions on that date, they must refer to the prices of those transactions, a if there were no transactions on any date, they refer to the prices as near that date as possible.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleas to state whether in quoting the prices in that statement the black-marl prices of rice prevailing on the date were taken account of?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I have grave doubt that that time there was any black-market in rice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleas to state if on the 30th of June, 1943, rice was freely being obtained in eve part of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, I don't think so. think there was a stringency.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleas to state what the Government information is about the date when and fr which black-market in rice and paddy started in the province?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is too vague a question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What was the date from which—

Mr. SPEAKER: There cannot be any definite date from which t black-market started.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister said that June, 1943, there was no black-market. So he must be knowing——

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not possible to give an answer to that questio I disallow that question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleas to state if there was any reason sought by Government to account for tl discrepancy in the prices quoted for Calcutta as Rs. 30 and Howrah Rs. 35?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I do not think there is an thing remarkable in that. It depends upon the stocks in Calcutta— depends upon the price which is being asked for by merchants in Calcut and the Howrah price depends on the stocks in Howrah.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleas to state how was it that Darjeeling had a price of Rs. 16 per maund on th date while Jalpaiguri showed a price of Rs. 28 per maund? Is there an reason to be assigned for this?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The only reason that I can assign to it is that Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri are two different districts.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in June, 1943, Government had any scheme of price control operative in any part of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: So far as I can throw my mind back, there was no price control on that date.

Mr. SPEAKER: Next.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: There are other questions on this very important matter.

SPEAKER: I did not find anything important in your questions up till now.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, may I point out that this question is as dead as dodo. There have been any number of discussions upon this point. The whole of the world is fully aware of the position as well as every single member of this House. It is not necessary even to answer these questions.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Then why do you answer them?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Because you have asked for answers.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, you can put your supplementaries on the next question. It is the same.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is not the same. One relates to the food drive and another relates to the purchase of *aman* paddy and rice.

Mr. SPEAKER: Why do you not put your important questions first?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am following the order in which answers are given.

Mr. SPEAKER: Twenty-two minutes have already been taken on one question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to the total quantity disclosed out of the food drive of 25 lakh maunds of paddy and 10 lakh maunds of rice, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the average consumption for the whole of Bengal that was discovered as a result of that drive in Bengal at that time?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am sorry I cannot answer that question because I do not understand it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if as a result of the food drive, the total quantity that was discovered to be lying in this province—the total stock discovered—was sufficient to feed Bengal for the rest of the year?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Time and again, Sir, on the floor of the House, it has been asserted that the amount of food-grains in Bengal at that time was not sufficient for the people of Bengal and it is obvious that what was discovered in the food drive which was only a portion of the full stock of Bengal could not have been sufficient to feed the province of Bengal.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What was the total quantity that was required for the whole of Bengal and what was the total quantity that was estimated to be within the province of Bengal on that date?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I do not remember the figures now.

Scheme of Government in respect of purchasing aman paddy and rice.

*2. **Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the present scheme of the Government in respect of purchasing *aman* paddy and rice in the Province; and

(*ii*) whether Government have settled the need of deficit districts?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of (A) surplus and (B) deficit districts of the Province?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that traders are buying paddy and rice at present at a cheaper rate?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any steps have been taken in the matter;

(*ii*) whether Government agents are buying paddy and rice at present in any district;

(*iii*) at what price they are buying from the traders or cultivators; and

(*iv*) at what rate they are supplying the same to the Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*)(*i*) The position as it stood in February, 1944, was as follows:—

The honourable member's attention is drawn to the Press-Note issued on the 1st December, 1943—a copy of which is laid on the Library Table.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*d*)(*i*) Do not arise.

(*c*) No.

(*d*)(*ii*) Yes, in surplus districts.

(*iii*) It is not in the public interest to disclose this information.

(*iv*) At the prices at which they buy.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to the press-note, a copy of which has been laid on the library table, paragraph 1, of the principal features shown therein, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there was any quantity purchased by Government direct, as mentioned in the press note, without the intervention of the chief agents?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I do not know.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that in Midnapore district rice was bought by the Government agents at rates lower than Rs. 10 when the controlled rate was Rs. 13-8?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Might have been.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: In view of this reply, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the necessity of controlling the prices of rice when the cultivators were forced to sell their stocks at lower prices than the controlled rates?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is an argumentative question; I cannot allow it.

Sj. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY: With reference to answer (*d*) (*ii*), will the Hon'ble Minister kindly state whether there was any fixed rate for the Government agents to purchase rice or paddy in the surplus districts or whether they purchased according to their whims?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Now?

Sj. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY: At present whether there is any fixed price in the surplus districts for the agents of Government?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I submit it does not arise out of this question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes; it does not.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to the food policy of 1944, referred to in the press-note wherein it is stated that the chief agents will buy in specific districts probably through agents appointed from amongst local rice and paddy dealers, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, now that the year 1944 is over, what proportion of purchases were made by the chief agents directly by setting up their own buying offices and what percentage was taken through the help of the local dealers?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, that is difficult for me to say because I am only concerned with how much the chief agents acquired, but so far as I have been able to follow their transactions, they have only a number of officers set up throughout Bengal and all their purchases are made through the dealers of the localities.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the rate of commission which the agent used to get from Government for supplying rice to them?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I would like to have notice of that. I think they have been published.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that subsequent to the press note, a copy of which is laid on the library table, being issued by Government, notifications were published in the newspapers by way of advertisement from the Department of Civil Supplies where the words "(namely, purchases will also be made from the trade and cultivators direct)" were deleted?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I do not know whether they were purposely deleted or not or what is their significance, but if the honourable member has compared them and has so found them, then probably it is correct.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if his attention was drawn in the floor of this House or not to the deletion of these words thereby making the only purchasing agency the chief agency system and nothing else?

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your question?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if his attention was drawn in the floor of this House itself to this fact of deletion resulting in making the chief agents the only buying agents in the respective areas and no direct purchases by Government, as was originally contemplated by them?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I do not remember whether my attention was drawn to it or not, but I believe that it is a fact that in those areas where chief agents were appoined, Government did not set up a competitive agency of its own and in those areas where chief agents were not appointed, Government made such purchase as it was necessary for its own requirements.

Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister deny that the Government agents taking advantage of their position as Government agents purchased rice and paddy on their own accounts and sold that paddy and rice in the black-market?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: So far as I am aware, that allegation is wholly false, incorrect and an unjustified insinuation.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that in certain places Government purchasing agents either failed to buy or refused to buy from cultivators who were making their offers, and as a result thereof, prices were going down to the detriment of the cultivators?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It was the policy of Government about that time, and honourable members will remember the policy which was endorsed and approved of by them that attempts should be made by Government to bring down the level of prices. Government is so working with schemes as to bring down the prices at a level which they consider to be satisfactory. Apart from that, I have no doubt difficulties of storage and movements must have compelled the chief agents on occasions not to purchase rice and paddy which were offered to them.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government had deviated from the declared policy in that press-note that they undertook to maintain prices at a level fair to the producer, and if so, when such deviation was decided upon?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, Sir. Government have never deviated from that policy.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that in certain districts, particularly in some parts of Nadia and Chittagong districts and also in some parts of the Tippera district during some weeks towards the end of 1944, prices showed a tendency to come down from Rs. 4 to Rs. 6 per maund for paddy?

The Hon'ble M. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It might have been so.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what in his estimate or in the estimate of Government is a fair price level for the cultivators or producers?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It depends upon the time and the occasion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: At the present moment what is estimated to be the minimum price which is fair to the producers?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am afraid that question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is mentioned in the press-note of 1943, which deals with the policy for the subsequent years.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the Hon'ble Minister is ready to answer this question, he can do so.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I submit that that question does not arise.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: চট্টগ্রাম জেলার রোগীর পথ্যের জন্য এক তোলা চিনিও মিলিতেছে না—একথা মিনিষ্টার মহোদয় জানেন কি?

Mr. SPEAKER: এখানে চিনির কথা হচ্ছে না।

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the undertaking of the Government of India referred to in paragraph 3 of the press-note that the Government of India would supply the entire needs of the Greater Calcutta during 1944 estimated at 650,000 tons from outside Bengal was fully maintained?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, it has been maintained. I am not quite certain whether it is to the last drop, but substantially it is so, and if there is anything remaining unfulfilled, it will be maintained. Honourable members may have noticed that food grains still continue to arrive in Bengal from outside.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that certain quantities of Bengal rice and paddy both came into the rationed areas of Calcutta by trains and also by steamers?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Certainly. If it had not come in, I think my friends would not have been able to eat the rice which had been sent from outside.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what happened to this paddy and rice obtained from Bengal sources that entered into the Calcutta area? Was it in addition to the foodgrains the Central Government sent to Calcutta in fulfilling their full responsibility for feeding Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, the honourable members know, and certainly Dr. Sanyal knows, if nobody else knows, that it was never intended that whatever was sent by the Government of India should be eaten by Calcutta and Calcutta alone, and that Calcutta or Greater Calcutta should not eat any Bengal rice. The main feature of it was that the requirements of Calcutta and Greater Calcutta estimated at over 6 lakhs tons were to be sent to Bengal and we distributed them in the best manner possible.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that certain quantities, if not large quantities, of aus paddy of the districts of Jessore and Nadia were brought down to Calcutta for milling purposes and were issued in Calcutta's suburban areas and industrial areas mostly even when the Government of India was sending their stock into the city and suburbs of Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: That might well be so, Sir.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what quantity out of the supply given to Bengal or to Calcutta by the Government of India was sent out of Calcutta to rural Bengal in order to replenish the stock taken out of rural Bengal for the purposes of Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I have no knowledge of that.

Supply of kerosene and sugar for Jessore district.

*3. **Mr. ATUL CHANDRA GHOSE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the quantity of kerosene oil and sugar supplied in the district of Jessore during the financial year 1943-44;

(*ii*) on what basis the supply is being given; and

(*iii*) what was the allotment *per capita*?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that people of the district are undergoing great hardship for want of kerosene and sugar?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of increasing the supply and of regulating the distribution so that the people may have some relief?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) (*i*) Sugar—18,677 bags or 51,362 maunds against an annual quota of 20,688 bags. This represents supplies received during the sugar year, i.e., December, 1943, till the 24th November, 1944.

Kerosene—125,520 tins during the year.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) In urban areas approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ seer of sugar per head per month and in rural areas on a block allotment system. The supply of kerosene varies according to the size of the families from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ bottle of 22 oz. per month. These two commodities were distributed in accordance with the directions of local committees composed of the members of the Union Boards and other leading members of the public. Since the introduction of the Rural Rationing Scheme the distribution is more methodical and systematic.

(*b*) Yes. The release, however, of a cheaper variety of candlesticks and spindle oil has to a certain extent supplemented the supplies of kerosene oil. Pressure on consumption of sugar was proposed to be relieved by import of *gur* from the United Provinces and Bihar, and one consignment of 2,000 maunds has already arrived at Bongaon.

(*c*) When the supply position permits, district quotas will be increased.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that for months together there are a large number of villages which did not get any sugar or any quantity of kerosene oil?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It is far too vague a question.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the cheaper varieties of candlesticks were released, by whom and where?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: These are done through my department—the department of consumer goods.

Amount spent for relief measures in Bankura district.

***4. Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY:** (A) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the amount of money granted by the Government for the district of Bankura to be spent during the financial year 1944-45 for—
  (*i*) Gratuitous relief,
  (*ii*) Rehabilitation scheme (for helping artisan class), and
  (*iii*) tank improvement and excavation of new tanks, with separate figures for each item if earmarked;

(*b*) the amounts actually spent for each item in (*a*)(*i*), (*ii*) and (*iii*) up to the end of October last;

(*c*) the number and names of places where work-houses were started with dates of their starting and closing and, if closed, the reason for their closure; and

(*d*) whether it is a fact—
  (*i*) that after a few weeks from their starting, the officers in charge of the work-houses would be stopped unless they became self-supporting, and
  (*ii*) that work of some of the self-supporting work-houses were actually stopped?

(B) If the answer to (A) (*d*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the work-houses were started for relief measures; and
(*ii*) if so, whether it is the intention of the Government to stop such work-houses?

(C) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of work-houses, district by district; and

(*ii*) the number of them that are self-supporting?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea): (A) (*a*) and (*b*)—

	Allotment for 1944-45 (up to 30-11-1944).	Actual expenditure (up to 31-10-1944).
	Rs.	Rs.
(*i*) Gratuitous relief	24,300	5,011
(*ii*) Rehabilitation of artisans	1,00,000	38,850
(*iii*) Tank improvement	5,82,688	1,85,806

(*c*) A statement is laid on the Library Table.

(*d*) No.

(B) Does not arise.

(C) (*i*) 138 work-houses are functioning at present as per statement laid on the Library Table.

(*ii*) None of them is self-supporting yet.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY: With reference to answer (*a*) (*i*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the reason for not spending the money allotted?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: The allotted money has been spent. For the information of the honourable member, I may say that on gratuitous relief up to 15th January a sum of Rs. 16,800 has been spent.

Purchase of rice by Government.

*5. **Dr. SANAULLAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government of Bengal purchased 25,000 maunds of rice from the Calcutta market on the 9th September, 1943, at Rs.24 per maund?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) from whom the said rice was purchased;
(*ii*) whether it was *aman* or *aus*;
(*iii*) when the said rice was imported into Calcutta;
(*iv*) by which firm it was so done;
(*v*) at what price it was purchased;
(*vi*) from which district and province;
(*vii*) what was cost of transportation;
(*viii*) how long it was with the importing firm;
(*ix*) whether the firm was in possession of a valid licence;
(*x*) when did the firm inform the prescribed authority about it;
(*xi*) if the firm did not inform the Government how did the Government come to know about it;
(*xii*) whether the firm voluntarily sold the rice to the Government;
(*xiii*) if not, whether it was compelled to sell at that price;
(*xiv*) whether it was purchased for civilian consumption;
(*xv*) if so, how it was disposed of; and
(*xvi*) if not, whether it was for military or semi-military consumption?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how much rice Government have purchased since the reimposition of the "control rate of rice" up to date;
(*ii*) at what prices;

(*iii*) from which places; and
(*iv*) for what purposes?
(*d*) Is it a fact—
(*i*) that during the last food census in Calcutta 21,000 bags containing about 42,000 maunds of rice were unearthed from a Marwari firm in Chitpore area; and
(*ii*) that at the telephonic intervention of the higher authorities they were not interfered with?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) (*i*) and (*iii*) A statement showing the quantities purchased up to 18th September, 1943, is laid on the Table.

(*ii*) At prices varying from Rs.20 to Rs.30 per maund for rice and from Rs.10 to Rs.15 per maund for paddy.

(*iv*) Rice and paddy were purchased for despatch to deficit areas and for relief purposes.

(*d*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) Does not arise.

Statement referred to in reply to clauses (c) (i) and (iii) of starred question No. 5 showing purchase made up to the 18th September, 1943, in the districts.

(Figures in maunds.)

Name of district.	*Aman.*		*Aus.*	
	Rice.	Paddy.	Rice.	Paddy.
Birbhum ..	..	..	5,616	..
Jessore ..	..	..	..	28,945
Rajshahi ..	..	..	1,191	..
Bogra ..	..	..	14,102	..
Malda ..	200	..	13,500	1,118
Dinajpur ..	56,501	20,739	36,406	10,795
Jalpaiguri ..	2,002	500	..	..
Mymensingh ..	..	..	4,757	68
Nadia ..	..	..	6,068	5,576
Pabna ..	..	..	6,562	13,265
Rangpur ..	..	..	1,445	1,988
Total ..	58,703	21,239	89,650	61,755

		Maunds.
Total rice purchased	..	148,353
Total paddy purchased	..	82,994
Grand Total	..	231,347

Family allowances for security prisoners of Bankura district.

***6. Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the total number of security prisoners from the district of Bankura still detained in jails;

(*ii*) the number and names of those of the said prisoners who have been granted monthly family allowance with amounts stated for each case; and

(*iii*) whether any monthly allowance has been granted to the following security prisoners, viz.:—(1) Sj. Bhaba Taran Chakravarty, (2) Debi Prosad (*alias* Bhola) Sarkar, (3) Ramlochan Chakravarty and (4) Sushil Chandra Palit?

(*b*) If the answer to (*iii*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) Twenty-three.

(*ii*) A statement is laid on the Library Table.

(*iii*) and (*b*) An allowance of Rs.30 per month has been granted to security prisoner Babu Devi Prosad Sarkar with effect from the 1st April, 1944.

No allowance has been granted to security prisoner Babu Bhaba Taran Chakravarty as he had no dependent.

Security prisoner Babu Sushil Ch. Palit has not applied for family allowance.

There is no security prisoner of the name of Babu Ramlochan Chakravarty.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who has given him the information that Babu Bhaba Taran Chakravarty has no dependent?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The information of Government is that he has no dependent.

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY: Is he aware of the fact that he has got his old mother still living and that she is dependent on him?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He has two brothers who are living separately. The security prisoner has no dependent.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the information given to him, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to further enquire into the matter and grant him an allowance if it is found that his mother is his dependent?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is not considered necessary because the security prisoner has two brothers and the mother might be living with one of the brothers. So, when I stated that he had no dependent, I meant that the mother of the security prisoner was not his dependent.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister positive that his two brothers are maintaining their mother?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: They must be maintaining her. What was the position before the arrest of the security prisoner? The information of the Government is that the security prisoner had no dependent before his arrest.

Increment of family allowance of Babu Sudhir Chandra Sinha, a security prisoner.

*7. **Mr. JNANENDRA CHANDRA MAJUMDAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether security prisoner Babu Sudhir Chandra Sinha Choudhury of district Dacca, at present detained as security prisoner in the Buxa Special Reserve Jail has been granted a family allowance of Rs.20 per month;

(*ii*) whether he applied several times to the Government for the increase of the said allowance;

(*iii*) whether he used to earn about Rs.150 per month from his business of shoe manufacture and order supply;

(*iv*) whether the contract of supplying shoes that he secured from the Dacca A.R.P. and the military department was cancelled after his arrest and detention;

(*v*) whether he has got a family of about 8 members who were solely dependent on him for their maintenance; and

(*vi*) whether they are now on the verge of starvation?

(*b*) If the answers to (*a*) (*ii*) to (*vi*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what actions, if any, have been taken by the Government in the matter?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of increasing the amount of his family allowance of Rs.20 per month?

(*d*) If not, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) A family allowance of Rs. 20 per month was originally sanctioned and this has eventually been increased to Rs. 50 per month.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) My information is that once an order was placed with him for supply of shoes to the A.R.P. Controller which he complied with but the next one was not accepted by him. I have no information about his contract with military department.

(*v*) He has a brother who is also capable of earning and maintaining the family.

(*vi*) No.

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) The honourable member is referred to my replies to the above questions.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*a*) (*v*), do I understand the Hon'ble Minister to admit that the security prisoner in question has got a family of 8 members who were actually maintained by his own income?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The family of the security prisoner consists of his wife and his son, aged 2½ years. He has of course a brother and his brother's wife and children who are not his dependents.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*a*) (*i*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the allowance sanctioned is increased from Rs. 20 to Rs. 50 and not Rs. 150 while the Government admit that the man was earning Rs. 150 per mensem before his arrest?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The position is this. This security prisoner has only two dependents, his wife and a son aged about 2½ years. At first the Government considered that an allowance of Rs. 20 would be sufficient, but subsequently this allowance was increased to Rs. 40. Again on a review, it has been increased to Rs. 50 per mensem.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Why was not the allowance increased to Rs. 150 which was the amount he was actually earning?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government consider each case on its merits. It is not the policy of Government to grant the security prisoner the exact amount that he was earning before his arrest. The only thing is that Government do not want to see that there is any distress. As the family of the security prisoner consists of his wife and his son aged 2½ years, Rs. 50 per mensem is considered sufficient.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have ascertained how this Rs. 150 was spent by the prisoner before he was arrested?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Why should the Government deny to the family the exact amount of Rs. 150 which according to the Government's own case was the income of this particular gentleman?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The question of denying the family does not arise here.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*a*) (*v*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government is satisfied that the brother who is said to be capable of earning and maintaining the family actually maintains the family?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have no information whether he is actually maintaining the family or not. The information of Government is that there is a brother who is capable of earning and maintaining the family.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the monthly income of his brother?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have no information. I ask for notice.

Jail warders' strike in Bengal.

***8. Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that in January, 1943, there was a general strike of the jail warders in—

(A) the Presidency Jail, and

(B) other jails of Bengal;

(*ii*) whether Government was previously aware of the grievances and demands of the jail warders which led to the general strike; and

(*iii*) whether the aforesaid grievances and demands were submitted to Government in writing—

(A) either before the strike, or

(B) after the strike?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what were the grievances and demands as formulated and submitted to the Government or Inspector-General of Prisons, or any such appropriate authority by the jail warders;

(*ii*) what were the terms of termination of the strike;

(*iii*) how far were the grievances and demands met by Government;

(*iv*) the date of the strike;

(*v*) the total number of—

(1) warders involved in the strike; as also

(2) the total strength of warders employed in the Bengal Jails; and

(*vi*) the jails totally or partially affected by the strike?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what were the—
(A) rates of pay, and
(B) other allowances, if any, of the jail warders—
(1) before the said strike, and
(2) after the said strike;

(*ii*) whether since the date of the strike any of the jail warders have been—
(A) suspended, or
(B) dismissed;

(*iii*) if so, the numbers and names of those who have been—
(A) dismissed, and
(B) suspended;

(*iv*) whether it is a fact that on the day of the jail warders' strike—
(A) all prisoners were left locked up in their cells and barracks for several hours in the morning without water and morning conveniences for calls of nature;
(B) machine guns manned by the military were mounted inside the Presidency Jail facing the security prisoners' barracks; and
(C) armed sergeants and police constables were posted inside the Presidency Jail and other jails; and

(*v*) whether any one was permitted to carry firearms inside the jail compound?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*), (*b*) (*i*), (*iii*), (*iv*) and (*c*) (*i*) The honourable member is referred to my reply to starred question No. 243 asked by Mr. Sibnath Banerji on the 18th April, 1944.

(*b*) (*ii*) I refer the honourable member to my reply to (*a*) (*iii*) of the question No. 40 asked by Mr. Satyapriya Banerji on the 8th December, 1944.

(*c*) (1) 1,454.
(2) 2,655.

(*v*) Midnapore, Alipore, Presidency, Rajshahi, Dacca, Dum Dum, Burdwan, Krishnagar, Jessore, Khulna Jalpaiguri, Mymensingh, Faridpur, Barisal, Chittagong and Buxa.

(*c*) (*ii*) No.
(*iii*) Does not arise.
(*iv*) (A) and (B) No.
(*iv*) (C) and (*v*) Yes, in the Presidency and Dacca Central Jails only.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (*c*) (*iv*) (A) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the prisoners in the Presidency Jail were kept locked up till 11 in the morning of that date?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Changes in the post of Subdivisional Officer at Barrackpore.

***9. Mr. M. A. F. HIRTZEL:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware—

(*i*) that the Barrackpore subdivision is an important subdivision containing many industrial concerns engaged in war production; and

(*ii*) that during the past year there have been six changes in the post of Subdivisional Officer, for the Barrackpore subdivision?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is the practice in other subdivisions to change the Subdivisional Officer after 3 months' service or less?

(*c*) If not, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why the Barrackpore subdivision has been treated in this manner?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the average period of office of Subdivisional Officers throughout the Province?

(*e*) Do Government propose to take any action to ensure that Subdivisional Officers hold office for a sufficient period to ensure efficient administration?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Officers were transferred because they were urgently required for other important posts and that these exigencies of public service affected Barrackpore adversely, was wholly fortuitous.

(*b*) Before the war the practice was to make the period of office of Subdivisional Officers about 3 years on the average. At present, owing to war conditions, the period has come down to about one year.

(*c*) Every effort is being made by Government to keep the Subdivisional Officers in their stations for as long a period as possible and to avoid frequent transfers.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to the answer under (*b*) that Subdivisional Officers are now ordinarily kept for one year instead of three years, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the Subdivisional Officer of Jangipur in Murshidabad district has been there for nearly five years?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: For how many years he has been there?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I don't know. I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that because he is considered to be a stalwart of the Muslim League he is there so long?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir.

Mr. A. F. STARK: In view of the admission that Barrackpore is an important subdivision, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain why that subdivision has been chosen for so many transfers in preference to other subdivisions?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It is unfortunate that Barrackpore has had several Subdivisional Officers but the fact is that the two officers who were posted had to go—one of them at least on medical grounds to the United Kingdom on leave, and that is why occasionally the subdivision had to be held charge of by the Second Officer.

Family allowance for Babu Naresh Chandra Shome, a security prisoner.

***10. Mr. JNANENDRA CHANDRA MAJUMDAR:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department aware—

(*i*) that security prisoner Babu Naresh Chandra Shome, B.L., at present detained in the Buxa Special Reserve Jail, has been granted a family allowance of Rs.25 only per month with effect from April, 1942;

(*ii*) that he was a practising lawyer at Mymensingh before his arrest;

(*iii*) that he was then earning a great deal more than Rs.25 per month and was progressively building up his practice;

(*iv*) that he sent petitions to the Government for the increment of his allowance; and

(*v*) that his allowance has not yet been increased in accordance with the declared policy of the Government?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of increasing the amount of his family allowance?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*), (*ii*) and (*iv*) Yes.

(*iii*) My information is that he was practising as a junior pleader only for about six months before his arrest and was not earning more than Rs.25 per month.

(*v*) The allowance has since been increased to Rs.50 per month with effect from 1st April, 1944.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us the date of his arrest?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the first allowance was granted to the security prisoner from the date of his arrest?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The first allowance was granted some time in September, 1942.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for not giving effect to the increment from April, 1942?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The family allowance was sanctioned some time in September, 1942, and the effect of this order was given from the 1st of April, 1942.

Family allowance of Sj. Makhanlal Sen detained in jail.

*11. **Miss MIRA DUTTA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) what was the earning of Sj. Makhanlal Sen now detained in the Presidency Jail;

(*b*) whether any allowance has been granted for his family and if so, the amount;

(*c*) the number of his dependants;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that his only daughter who is preparing for the B.A. examination is in difficulty for the reason that her father has been deprived of his income by his detention?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Exact income could not be ascertained though an enquiry was made.

(*b*) An allowance of Rs.60 per mensem has been granted to the prisoner's wife from 26th November, 1942, the date of his arrest for support of his dependants.

(*c*) Two—wife and daughter.

(*d*) No.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Is it a fact that Babu Makhan Lal Sen was employed as Manager of the *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, and, if so, what was the difficulty in ascertaining his exact income?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot say what was the difficulty. I ask for notice.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: With reference to the answer "No" to question (*d*) about his only daughter who is preparing for the B. A. examination being in difficulty, how did the Government gather that there was no difficulty in the way of the daughter of Babu Makhan Lal Sen appearing for the B. A. examination?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: This security prisoner has other brothers and it is the information of Government that they have an income of Rs. 800 per month and in addition to that Government have given an allowance of Rs. 60 per month for the maintenance of the prisoner's wife and the education of his daughter.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the basis on which this Rs. 60 was fixed?

Mr. SPEAKR: Mr. Kundu, that is going too far into the question. Government says that Rs. 800 is the earning of his brothers and they may refuse to answer the question.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I may state that they are living in a joint mess.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Mr. Makhan Lal Sen used to run a motor car and had a driver and his income was more than Rs 500 per month?

Mr. SPEAKER: But that is another matter.

Appointment of Lawyer-Magistrates.

*12. **Mr. MADHUSUDAN SARKAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of Lawyer-Magistrates appointed from the beginning up to date; and

(*b*) how many of them are—

(*i*) Scheduled Castes,
(*ii*) Caste Hindus, and
(*iii*) Muslims?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Sixty.

(*b*)(*i*) Six.
(*ii*) Twenty-four.
(*iii*) Thirty.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Communal Ratio Rules were applicable in the matter of these appointments?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the reasons for which the requisite number of Scheduled Caste appointments were not made?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Because candidates were not available.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is in a position to tell the House how many candidates were recommended by the Public Service Commission for the appointments?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes. In the first batch three Scheduled Caste candidates were recommended and in the scond batch seven were recommended, that is, a total of ten.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: In view of his present answer, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to reconcile his previous answer?

Mr. SPEAKER: No question of reconciliation; you can simply put questions to elicit information.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the recommended candidates were not appointed to fill up the quota fixed for scheduled castes?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: In the first batch names of 69 candidates were recommended by the Public Servise Commission and in the second 75, and they were recommended in order of preference. In order to maintain communal parity in the matter of appointments Government appointed Scheduled Caste candidates even if men were lower down in the list. Even in normal circumstances they might have got them in the order of preference given by the Public Service Commission but so far as the first batch was concerned three were recommended and all of them were appointed by Government. In the second list within the age-limit of 40 or 45 seven names were recommended by the Public Service Commission and out of that I think three or four—three I think—have been appointed by Government. I may also add that the cases of some more are pending before Government and some more lawyer magistrates will be appointed shortly.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us the exeat time when these appointments are expected to be made?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know. It is being considered by Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question time over.

Adjournment Motion.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Mr. Speaker, I gave notice of a motion of adjournment about the prevailing cloth famine in the province. Unfortunately, you have refused your consent, but I submit the question is very important and demands the immediate attention of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Sen, you have already got my refusal and I think it will be better if I give you certain facts. I got about seven notices of adjournment motions and I have refused consent to all of them. Two of these motions appear to me to be matters of great importance to the community but the point for consideration is whether I shall be justified in postponing the presentation of the Budget. That stood in my way and I thought I could not postpone the presentation of the Budget. That is why I had to refuse consent.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why should it be postponed? We could have taken up after the presentation of the Budget.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the House is agreeable I will certainly reconsider my decision.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is the practice.

Mr. SPEAKER: If that is the practice and if the House is agreeable I will have no objection. I will consider this aspect of the question during the prayer recess.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: There is a motion about the street accidents by military lorries in Calcutta.

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, I have already said that; you need not raise it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The position is this. On the previous occasion in the floor of the House we made several attempts to invite your attention through appropriate motions to these street accidents.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, when I spoke of two motions your motion was also in my mind. So what I propose to do is I will discuss the matter with you in my chamber and if the House be agreeable to take up any of these matters after the presentation of the Budget I shall have no objection personally.

The House stands adjourned for 15 minutes for prayer.

(The House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May we have your consent now after having heard us in the chamber?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the Budget should be presented first and I shall give you my decision.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With regard to the presentation of the Budget we do not want to stand in the way. We suggest this matter is of grave and urgent importance and should not wait, namely, accidents by military lorries in the streets of Calcutta and the inadequacy of Government measures to stop the same, and if that is allowed to be discussed after the Budget speech is delivered we shall have no objection for this day. A matter of this character should not wait any longer. We find reports in the press of Special Type of motor vehicles leading to deaths and injuries.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is all right. You have made your position quite clear.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: May I have a minute or two of your time? If we have followed you correctly, we understand that you have refused all the adjournment motions not on grounds that they infringe the rules but for some other reasons.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not so in the case of your motion. Yes, Mr. Goswami.

Point of Order.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order. We would like to invite your attention to the Assembly Procedure Rules wherein it is laid down that on Fridays non-official business should be taken up and we would not like this encroachment of the rights and privileges of this House by the Government in this wanton fashion. We had previously invited your attention to this matter and every time we find the same mistake or delinquency being repeated by Government probably with your consent or without your consent making it impossible for you to intervene. We would like to make it clear that we in this House would maintain the dignity of this House and preserve the rights and privileges of members so far as non-official business is concerned. In the programme that is circulated you will notice non-official business days have been scrupulously avoided. February 23rd is the only non-official business day allowed in a period extending over six weeks with six non-official days coming over. The first non-official day—today—is encroached upon. The third non-official day would be 2nd March which is not mentioned in the programme at all. Then, Sir, 9th March, which would have been another non-official day is also intelligently left out, and thereafter from the 13th onwards voting on demands for grants begin

and there naturally the Government would take protection under the Governor's rules and all non-official days have been encroached upon. We therefore would like to have your ruling on this matter as to whether you permit Government encroaching upon non-official days in this wanton manner and how long will this vandalism continue.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will have a talk with the leaders of all the parties on the subject. Yes, Mr. Goswami.

BUDGET ESTIMATES, 1945-46.

Statement by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Mr. Speaker, I rise to present the Budget for the year 1945-46.

In presenting the Budget for the year 1944-45, twelve months ago, I made a departure from previous practice and adopted a form of presentation which I thought would help honourable members to a truer appreciation of the state of our finances and the resulting problems. I propose again to adopt that form of presentation this afternoon and explain our estimates of the two years' working with which we are now concerned in broad outline and leave those who wish to fill in the details to study the Red Book in which they will find the usual detailed comparisons under each grant and the explanations of the main variations.

It will be recalled that the budgetary plans for the current year aimed at the attainment of two primary objectives. The first and foremost was to prevent a recurrence of the preceding year's famine. The second was to administer relief in various forms to those who had suffered from that famine and to control the epidemics that followed in its wake. These were by no means easy of attainment. Indeed, in regard to the first objective, doubts as to the possibility of complete success were entertained even in quarters not avowedly unfriendly to this Government. And hostile critics went to the length of predicting, in season and out of season, the imminence of a second famine in a yet more grievous form. Although there was still cause for anxiety, it was my painful impression that such grim forebodings often proceeded from wishful thinking. But thanks to careful planning and the effective execution of the threefold programme of production, procurement and distribution of food, Government have been able to redeem their pledge: "There shall be no famine in 1944."

The organisation of famine relief and the control of epidemics also presented problems of exceptional difficulty and taxed to the utmost the resources of Government. The question was not merely one of money, although, as honourable members are well aware, money is one of our most serious problems. The task of setting up an efficient civilian organisation when the Army pulled out of famine fighting operations in April last, after having rendered such splendid service, presented very great difficulties from the point of view of trained personnel particularly in the field of medical relief. Notwithstanding all this, the work of repairing the terrible damage caused by the famine was steadfastly pursued and I am thankful that today the victims of destitution and sickness are no longer adrift but have been provided with food and shelter and medical relief. What is more, short-term measures of immediate relief have, in the course of the year, been supplemented by a programme of rehabilitation which aims at more enduring benefit and widespread amelioration.

Let me now present to the House a brief review of the working of some of the more important schemes which have been undertaken in furtherance of our basic objectives.

I will first take up the question of food production. The responsibility for stimulating the production of food in this Province rests primarily on the Departments of Agriculture and Fisheries. It is essential for the proper

discharge of this responsibility that the Departments should be adequately reorganised and expanded. The main obstacle to this has been the difficulty of getting adequately trained and experienced men for the more responsible jobs at the top. It has been increasingly borne in on me during the last two years that personnel, even more than finance, is our real "bottleneck". Preliminary steps are being taken to increase the Higher and Lower Agricultural Services by some 300 additional officers from demonstrators upwards. The training of this large personnel involves a considerable expansion of the facilities for agricultural education at present available in the Province. Plans for this are already under way, but some time must necessarily elapse before they start producing results. In the meantime we have had to carry on with the staff we have got, with such help from outside as we have been able to secure. We have recently been fortunate enough to obtain for one year the services of three experts in dairy and poultry farming from the Government of New Zealand, and if they are the men that we hope and believe they are, Bengal will undoubtedly be the richer for their collaboration. Another valuable acquisition from which much is expected is our Agricultural Adviser, Mr. Leonard K. Elmhirst, who possesses the very rare qualification of a combination of highly specialised training with an intimate knowledge and a sympathetic understanding of local conditions. He is devoting himself wholeheartedly to the working out of schemes of agricultural development on a scale commensurate with the needs and standards of modern civilisation. He is the same Mr. Elmhirst who, as a friend and collaborator of Rabindranath Tagore, founded the Sreeniketan and continues to be its guiding spirit.

The reorganisation of the Department of Fisheries has also been taken in hand. It has been decided to create 4 posts of Deputy Directors, 8 posts of Superintendents, 26 posts of District Fishery Officers and 85 posts of field assistants. Here again we are up against shortage of trained personnel, and up till now it has not been possible to recruit more than one Deputy Director, 4 Superintendents, 23 District Fishery Officers and 20 field assistants.

Let me now turn to the schemes which have been taken up by these Departments.

The most important of these schemes are grouped together under the comprehensive designation of "Grow More Food Campaign". They consist in the distribution of improved seeds and manure, the encouragement of the making of composts and the execution of such projects of irrigation and drainage as are likely to increase the yield of paddy and other food crops.

The approved schemes of seed distribution include *aus* and *aman* paddy seeds, *rabi* seeds, potato, fodder crop seeds, famine crops like *cheena* and *kaun*, seeds of summer and cold weather vegetables and cuttings of sugarcane. The system of distribution is either cash sale with a 20 per cent. rebate or if the recipient so desires, loan on the *sowai* basis, repayable after the following harvest. To facilitate the working of these schemes seed stores have been established at district and subdivisional headquarters throughout the Province.

The manures selected for distribution are oil cake, bonemeal and chemical fertilisers like sulphate and phospate of ammonia. In order to bring them within easy reach of the cultivators they have been supplied to stockists at 29 important centres specially selected for the purpose.

In order to turn to account the valuable fertilising material which is allowed to run to waste in villages, 200 workers have been given training in the process of turning farmyard refuse into compost and sent out to rural areas to instruct the villagers. The conversion of town waste into compost has been started in two important municipalities near Calcutta, namely, Howrah and Hooghly-Chinsura, and centres for training in municipal compost-making have also been organised where any municipality can depute

a man for training free of cost. It is hoped that many municipalities will avail themselves of this facility and start production of compost which is sure to have a ready market.

Among other schemes included in the "Grow More Food Campaign" mention may be made of the distribution of specially designed Persian Wheels for lift irrigation purposes; construction of water-hyacinth barricades for the reclamation of paddy lands; and the cultivation of selected vegetables on some 1,700 acres of land in collaboration with the Military authorities with a view to reduce the load of army requirements on the civilian market for vegetables. Finally, in order to increase the area under cultivation Railway side lands are being settled with tenants on a temporary basis and action is being taken to bring as much arable waste under cultivation as possible.

Sir, honourable members are no doubt aware that owing to a variety of causes there has been a serious depletion of the cattle population of the country. Provision of half a crore has been made for cattle purchase loans with a view to enable cultivators to procure a sufficient number of plough cattle for their agricultural operations. Supplies were, however, extremely limited and not much could be done in the way of importing cattle from outside the Province. The only satisfactory solution lies in the establishment of a large scale cattle breeding station in the Province and a plan for this has already been worked out by our Agricultural Adviser. It involves the acquisition of 7,000 acres of land and a capital outlay of close upon 30 lakhs of rupees. The land is situated in a part of the district of Nadia which has been gradually depopulated by malaria. In selecting this area we have kept in view an additional object, namely, the trying-out of experimental public health measures. Meanwhile several short-term schemes of rapid relief have been taken in hand. Two hundred stud bulls of good pedigree are being imported from outside for distribution in the important cattle areas of the Province. Schemes have also been initiated for the rapid multiplication of goats and poultry. The goat multiplication scheme is expected to produce as many as 50,000 goats in the first year of its operation. The expansion of poultry multiplication centres which involves a cost of over 3 lakhs of rupees is also expected to make a substantial contribution to the food economy of the Province.

It is greatly to be deplored that notwithstanding the immense possibilities of development of fisheries in this Province, inland, estuarine and marine, there should be a shortage of fish which is almost an indispensable item of Bengal's dietary. Attempts had been made from time to time by the Government of Bengal, especially since 1906, when the late Sir K. G. Gupta, then Senior Member of the Board of Revenue, Bengal, was placed on special duty to report on the fisheries and fish supply of the Province, with a view to encouraging the exploitation of this potential source of food and wealth. But it would not be too unfair to characterise these attempts as spasmodic exertions. I am glad to say, however, that our present miseries have impelled us to action in this direction as in many others. The first essential requisite was to strengthen and reorgainise the Department of Fisheries so as to enable it to cope with the work ahead. I have already explained the action which is being taken in this behalf. In the meantime, as short-term "Grow More Food" measures, culture of carp in paddy fields was undertaken in the Sunderbans area; and derelict tanks in that area as well as in the districts of Bankura, Birbhum and Tippera, were reconditioned and stocked with fish fry. Arrangements have also been made to facilitate the transport of fish from Goalundo to Calcutta by making larger supplies of ice available to the fish trade through the agency of an ice-controller specially appointed for the purpose.

Sir, one of the most serious impediments to planned agriculture in Bengal has been the absence of reliable and comprehensive agricultural statistics. Arrangements have been made to undertake collection and compilation,

by a plot-to-plot enumeration, of agricultural statistics, for *aus*, *aman* and *rabi* crops from year to year. The cost of the operation is estimated at 23 lakhs per annum. It will be accompanied by a survey to ascertain the acreage of culturable fallow and waste land which is lying uncultivated, and action will be taken under the Bengal Food Production Control Order to bring the maximum possible area of such land under the plough. As a counter-check, the Indian Statistical Institute, under the guidance of the renowned statistician, Professor P. C. Mahalanobis, is to carry out a survey of jute, *aus* paddy and *aman* paddy by the method of random sampling at a cost of 7 lakhs per annum.

The total provision under "Agriculture" and "Fisheries" amounts to 2 crores 25 lakhs in 1944-45 and 2 crores 10 lakhs in 1945-46. These figures do not include the loans for cattle purchase which are adjustable under the "Loans" Budget.

The responsibility for the administration of the second branch of the famine-preventive programme, namely, procurement and distribution of foodgrains, rests with the Department of Civil Supplies. This Department has been expanded and reorganised in the course of the year with a view to secure the maximum of administrative efficiency. Four separate Divisions have been created dealing respectively with "Food", "Movement and Storage", "Consumer's goods" and "Enforcement and Public Relations". The first of these Divisions is concerned with problems of procurement and distribution of rice, wheat and other articles of food such as salt and sugar. It includes a special organisation for inspection and control which is entrusted with the duty of testing rice, wheat and other foodgrains purchased by the Department or stored in departmental godowns. This will enable the Department to obtain timely warning of the possibility of loss through deterioration of stocks and to safeguard the quality of purchases effected by or on behalf of Government. The Division of "Movement and Storage" is responsible for the transport of supplies and for proper storage of foodgrains. Construction and maintenance of storage godowns, provision of transport, like lorries and country boats, and the carrying out of the programme of boat construction, to which I shall refer more fully later on, come within the purview of this Division. The Division of "Consumer's goods" is entrusted with the control and distribution of articles like shoes, textiles, coal, steel and cement. The "Enforcement" Division deals with cases of hoarding, profiteering and corruption and maintains departmental contact with the press and the public.

The cost of the Civil Supplies Department is estimated at 3 crores in 1944-45 and 2 crores 75 lakhs in 1945-46. The larger expenditure in the current year is due to an extensive programme of construction of storage godowns and the acquisition of transport for the movement of foodgrains. The figures I have mentioned do not of course include the loss on the Department's trading operations. These losses are due, in the main, to sale of foodgrains to the public at prices below those at which they were purchased and to devaluation of Government's stocks as a result of progressive statutory lowering of price levels. But there are other contributory factors, like damaged stocks and loss in transit. The original estimates provided for a loss of 3½ crores in 1943-44 and 5 crores in 1944-45—a total of 8½ crores in two years. The present estimates place the total at nearly 17 crores for the same period. The loss in the coming year is estimated at 5½ crores, so that the total for the triennium stands at 22½ crores.

I shall refer later on to the working of the Capital head "85-A" under which receipts and disbursement on account of procurement operations and other transactions of a capital nature are adjusted.

Measures for the relief of destitute persons were readjusted during the year to suit the changing requirements of the situation. The need for test relief works having greatly abated, expenditure thereon was substantially reduced. Under the scheme for administration of gratuitous relief, free

kitchens which were functioning in considerable numbers in the earlier part of the year were gradually closed down and replaced by arrangements for the sale of foodgrains at reduced rates to the poorer section of the people. This scheme continued in operation till the end of December when the harvesting of winter paddy somewhat eased the situation. It is estimated that no less than 18 lakhs of people have been benefited by this measure and the expenditure involved is of the order of 80 lakhs. A large number of centres were opened for the distribution of milk food to children and nursing mothers. The bulk of such milk food was obtained from abroad with the assistance of the Government of India and the distribution was effected through the agency of the Red Cross. Some 5,000 gallons of shark liver oil were emulsified and sent out for distribution to under-nourished children through the milk canteens established in various localities. Reports indicate that much benefit has been derived from the use of this tonic. Finally, free grants to the extent of 10 lakhs have been made to homeless destitutes to enable them to rebuild their huts, and free distribution of cloth and blankets to indigent people has been undertaken at a cost of close upon 15 lakhs.

At the beginning of the current year 268 workhouses, 67 poor houses and 88 temporary orphanages were functioning in the distressed areas of the Province. These had all been started on a purely emergency basis with a view to afford relief where relief was urgently needed, and were therefore not based on any very definitely constructive plan. It was decided to replace them by 60 centralised Destitutes' Homes, each consisting of a workhouse, a home for destitutes and a home for orphans, deserted children and unattached destitute women. Up to date 40 such Homes have already been established, and more are nearly ready for opening. The workhouses attached to these Homes provide work for the able-bodied inmates and also for such of the residents of the locality as wish to work there for a living. The work consists of such items as paddy-husking, rope-making, mat-weaving, cane and bamboo work, spinning and net-making. A sum of two annas is credited to the account of an inmate for each day's work and non-resident workers are paid at rates varying from six to twelve annas per day according to output.

Destitutes are being repatriated to their home areas as soon as they become fit to earn their own living, but before repatriation, the local Union Board is consulted to make sure that it would undertake to look after them till they started maintaining themselves in the ordinary way. In order that they may be able to discharge this responsibility the Union Boards have been authorised to open poor funds with contributions from Government supplemented by subscriptions locally raised.

Government have accepted responsibility for all famine orphans, and, as I have already stated, there are at present some 88 State-managed orphanages in various parts of the Province. The temporary orphanages are now being looked after by the Revenue Department and the inmates will, in due course, be transferred to the permanent orphanages set up by the Education Department where they will be given proper education and vocational training so that they may grow up to be useful members of the community.

The opening of centralised homes for destitutes is a part of our scheme of Rehabilitation. Other items of the programme of rehabilitation are the setting up of properly staffed permanent orphanages, re-excavation of derelict irrigation tanks, execution of useful irrigation and drainage projects, and rehabilitation of artisans. For the last named purpose raw materials, tools and implements of various kinds are being distributed among artisans and craftsmen either free or on easy terms so as to enable them to resume their normal occupations which were suspended as a result of the famine. Typical items included in the scheme of distribution are yarn for weavers, nets for fishermen, iron and steel for agricultural implements, etc. The outlay involved in this scheme is of the order of 50 lakhs.

There has been considerable expansion during the current year of medical facilities for sufferers from the after-effects of famine. The number of emergency hospitals has been greatly increased. Sixty-two hospitals with a hundred beds in each, 92 with 50 beds in each, and 441 with 20 beds in each are now open in different parts of the Province for the treatment of sick destitutes. In addition some 200 mobile units have been established for the purpose of carrying medical relief to remote and inaccessible areas. The number of such units could have been substantially increased but for the shortage of trained medical personnel. In our quest for doctors we explored every source. Seven I.M.S. Officers have been borrowed from the Army and 29 Burma Medical Officers have been pressed into service. Other Provinces were approached for the loan of doctors but few had any to spare. Even with this disability the results achieved have been worth while.

The provision for famine relief operations included in the estimates amounts to 3 crores 85 lakhs in 1944-45 and 1½ crores in 1945-46. The decrease is due to further improvement in the economic situation which is anticipated in the coming year. The provision for the Rehabilitation Programme is a crore and 80 lakhs in the current year and a crore and 70 lakhs in 1945-46.

Owing to the persistence of the epidemics of cholera and smallpox and the outbreak of a virulent form of malaria on a province-wide scale, anti-epidemic measures had to be maintained at an unprecedented level throughout the year. The number of satellite treatment centres for attending to outdoor cases, principally cases of malaria, went up from 42 at the end of 1942-43 to close upon 1,400 in the current year. The machinery for the distribution of anti-malarial drugs was progressively expanded and these drugs were made readily available to the people in all parts of the Province. Two hundred and eighty-two million tablets of mepacrine were obtained at a cost of 73 lakhs for sale to the public and for free distribution to indigent patients.

The total provision for the free distribution of quinine and mepacrine amounts to 20 lakhs in the current year and 20 lakhs in 1945-46.

For the control of smallpox and cholera a very large staff of medical licentiates, health assistants and vaccinators was entertained for carrying out vaccinations and inoculations on an extensive scale. Special measures were taken in the city of Calcutta for checking the spread of smallpox. The cost of these anti-epidemic measures is close upon 20 lakhs. The estimates also include 17 lakhs for the repair and resinking of tube-wells which had gone out of order in areas worst affected by the epidemics.

The total provision in the Public Health Budget is a crore and 77 lakhs in the current year and 95 lakhs in 1945-46. The increase in these two years over the pre-1943-44 average of 36 lakhs thus amounts to 2 crores. The reduced provision in the coming year is based on the assumption that there will be an early subsidence of epidemics and that further purchase of mepacrine tablets will not amount to more than 30 lakhs.

The need for organising medical relief on an elaborate scale throughout the Province brought into prominence the inadequacy of medical facilities provided by the great majority of local fund hospitals at Sadar and Subdivisional headquarters. The difficulty experienced by these institutions in meeting the higher cost of medicine and diet has been greatly aggravated by the larger demand for admission as a result of the famine. In order to enable them to function properly it was necessary, as a temporary emergency measure, to assume direct responsibility for their management and to provide the additional funds necessary for the purpose. The charges on this account amount to 13 lakhs in the current year and 23 lakhs in 1945-46.

The activities of the Irrigation Department have been greatly intensified as a result of the need for speedy execution of a large number of new projects both under the Grow More Food Scheme and under the programme of

Rehabilitation. The total value of schemes under these two categories for which provision has been included in these estimates is a crore and 46 lakhs spread over the two years 1944-45 and 1945-46. Two new circles with appropriate staff and equipment have been set up during the year to enable the Department to cope with the increase in work. A third circle has been created for working out the details of the Damodar Flood Control projects. A contour survey of rivers in North Bengal has been undertaken at an estimated cost of 11½ lakhs of rupees. Among other important works which are being carried out by the Irrigation Department mention may be made of the remodelling of the Damodar Left Embankment which is expected to protect an area of 1,000 square miles from flood. The estimated cost of this project is close upon 3 crores and the Government of India have agreed to bear a 75 per cent. share. The remodelling of other important embankments in the districts of Midnapore and Tippera is also being carried out under a similar agreement with the Government of India.

The question of liberalisation of the rates of dearness allowance had been engaging the attention of Government for some time past. Orders were issued in October last, after consultation with the Government of India, giving effect to enhanced rates from the 1st of July, 1944. This involved an extra liability of about 9 lakhs per month. Earlier in the year, it had been decided to make special grants to primary and secondary non-Government schools to enable them to pay dearness allowance to their teachers and menial staff. The provision for this purpose amounts to 57 lakhs per annum. The Budget for the coming year includes a provision of 25 lakhs for grants to local bodies for dearness allowance to their low-paid employees. The total provision on account of dearness allowance to Government employees and others is 2 crores 17 lakhs in the current year and 2 crores 81 lakhs in 1945-46.

While immediate objectives have naturally claimed the largest share of Government's energies and resources, planning for the future has not been neglected. A Post-war Reconstruction Committee assisted by a large number of sub-committees—each dealing with a special field of administration—is hard at work, drawing up plans for utilising to the best possible advantage the opportunities for development which are sure to arise in the post-war period. The Department of Communications and Works has been provided with a special staff for post-war road planning in close collaboration with the Government of India.

It had become apparent to us that the old machinery of administration in Bengal, which had with occasional adjustments been made to serve changing needs and to perform altering and more diversified functions, should be subjected to a thorough examination. Accordingly Government appointed a Committee, known as the Bengal Administration Committee, under the chairmanship of Sir Archibald Rowlands, Finance Member-designate of the Governor-General's Council, to enquire into the system and method of work of the various departments of Government and to suggest the means whereby the administrative machinery can be improved and rendered adequate for the efficient discharge of its functions both now and in the foreseeable future. The Committee have already covered a good deal of ground and their report, which is expected to be a valuable document, is awaited with interest.

A Provincial Statistical Bureau has been established with Professor P. C. Mahalanobis as its head. The task of this Bureau will be to effect the maximum possible improvement in the methods of collection, classification, tabulation and analysis of statistical materials by imparting necessary technical advice and assistance to various departments of Government engaged in statistical work.

It has also been decided to open an Organisation and Method Section, under the Finance Department, with the object of securing great efficiency in all offices and departments of Government and particularly in those in which defective methods of operation are likely to involve substantial losses

of public money. For this purpose we were fortunately able to persuade Mr. Arthur Ethel, Honorary Organisation and Methods Adviser to His Majesty's Treasury and the Air Ministry in London, to fly to Calcutta and spend several weeks here, about the middle of 1944, and to prepare a detailed scheme for us. Mr. Ethel has agreed to be our Honorary Adviser and to assist us with his advice from London.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On what honorarium?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: None whatsoever.

Among other items of additional expenditure included in these estimates, there are three which call for individual mention. The first of these is the expansion and reorganisation of the Publicity Department on modern lines at a cost of 6 lakhs per annum. This has been already carried out. The other two items, both falling on next year's budget are an extra 8 lakhs for the spread of primary education and an extra 5 lakhs for the development of secondary education.

Let me now review the working of the Capital head "85-A" under which are exhibited the receipts and disbursements in respect of the following transactions:—

(1) Purchase of foodgrains other than wheat.

(2) Purchase of wheat and wheat products.

(3) Purchase of standard cloth.

(4) Purchase of salt and sugar.

(5) Construction of boats.

The total capital outlay involved in the first four of these schemes is of the order of 90 crores out of which a sum of 47 crores is derived from sale-proceeds and represents the turnover of stocks. The figure for loss adjustable in the current year is 13½ crores and the book-value of stock likely to remain in hand at the close of the year is estimated at 60 crores.

The comparable figures for the coming year are—a total outlay of 70 crores out of which 48 crores will be derived from sale-proceeds; a loss of 5½ crores; and a carry forward of stock to the value of 77 crores.

The existence of such large stocks in the possession of Government must necessarily raise important problems of disposal and turning over of stocks. These were recently discussed at a conference with representatives of the Government of India, and it was decided to accelerate offtake within the Province itself, by suitable reductions of prices, with a view to prevent deterioration through long storage and to release sufficient storage space for the new *aman* crop. The Government of India have offered, "as, so to speak, partners in the business", to share all losses arising out of sales at reduced prices in order to secure the necessary turnover. The details of this arrangement and its financial implications are being worked out, and it is hoped that as the result of our final arrangement with the Government of India, considerable relief will have been secured to our overburdened finances.

Under the fifth item, "Construction of boats", has been included the Scheme for building a fleet of some 10,000 boats of 100 maunds and upwards by new construction or purchase from outside the Province. This is urgently necessary for replacing the country boats lost in previous years and for supplementing the existing means of transport for the movement of supplies of all kinds. A number of these new boats will be operated directly by Government and the remainder will be either hired out to contractors for carrying supplies or sold outright or on the hire-purchase system. The provision on account of the boat construction programme is 2 crores 38 lakhs in 1944-45 and 5½ crores in 1945-46.

Finance for transactions relating to foodgrains and standard cloth has been obtained from three sources in the current year, namely, loan from the Central Government, cash credit advance from the Imperial Bank and issue of treasury bills. The Government of India have recently agreed to advance the necessary finance in respect of procurement operations in the coming year. This has considerably simplified our problem of procurement finance. It is proposed to issue treasury bills for providing requisite finance for the construction of boats.

I shall now pass on to a review of the revenue position as it stands according to the estimates in the hands of honourable members.

The Budget for the current year provided for a revenue of 22 crores and an expenditure of 30 crores with a resultant revenue deficit of 8 crores. The Revised Estimates place our revenue receipts at 36 crores, that is to say 14 crores higher than the budget figure. In ordinary circumstances this should have enabled us to wipe out the estimated deficit and to close the year with a comfortable revenue surplus. But so seriously adverse to our fortunes has been the impact of conditions arising out of the War and the famine that our expenditure has been forced up to the formidable level of 47 crores or 17 crores in excess of our original estimate. In the result, the gap between revenue and expenditure stands further widened—from 8 crores in the Budget to 11 crores in the Revised. Let me summarise the factors responsible for these large variations in receipt as well as in expenditure.

Out of the total improvement of 14 crores in revenue receipts, 7 crores is accounted for by the subvention granted to the Province by the Government of India. In the course of my last Budget statement before the House I mentioned that the Government of India had been approached for suitable financial assistance and that we were hopeful that such assistance would be forthcoming. Towards the end of February, 1944, the Central Government communicated their decision to make *ex gratia* grants equal to half the booked expenditure under "Famine Relief" in each of the years 1943-44 and 1944-45 subject to a maximum of 3 crores in the first of these years and 1½ crore in the second. A sum of 3 crores was, in terms of this decision, adjusted in the accounts for 1943-44 in reduction of expenditure under the head "54—Famine". After considering a further representation from the Province, the Government of India decided to raise the maximum limit of financial assistance to 10 crores in all and to include within its scope half the booked expenditure on "Rehabilitation" and "Loss on sale of subsidised food" in addition to that in respect of "Famine Relief". Three crores out of the ten having been already received in 1943-44, credit has been taken in the current year for the balance of 7 crores.

As I have just explained, half the total improvement of 14 crores in our revenue receipts for the current year is attributable to the subvention from the Government of India. The other important heads which contribute to the increase are "Income-tax", "Excise" and "Other Taxes and Duties". "Income-tax" promises to yield a crore and a half more than was assumed at the budget stage. Under "Excise" we look for an increase of 2½ crores as a result of steep upgrading of the rates of duty. The policy of enhancement of excise duty with the twofold object of increasing revenue and reducing consumption which achieved such striking success in 1943 has been pursued further in the current year with highly satisfactory results. A graphical chart, which has been prepared to indicate the relative position of consumption of excisable articles and revenue derived from it, shows that in the current year, under each head, the inflow of revenue has substantially increased while consumption has been consistently kept at the minimum level. Even the consumption of country spirit, from which the bulk of our excise revenue is derived, has been very definitely reduced in spite of a large addition to the liquor-consuming population which has drifted into the Province from outside.

Under "Other Taxes and Duties" the increase is 1½ crore out of which one crore is due to enhancement of rates of Sales Tax and the balance is distributed over a number of items like Entertainment Tax, Betting Tax, Electricity Duty and the Sales Tax on petrol.

On the expenditure side as I have already stated the total increase is 17 crores. Out of this 8½ crores is due to larger provision for loss on the sale of subsidised food and the balance is accounted for principally by the following items of additional expenditure:—

Rehabilitation Schemes	2 crores.
Liberalization of rates of dearness allowance to Government employees and grant of dearness allowance to teachers in non-Government schools ...	1½ crore.
Expansion of the Department of Civil Supplies ...	1½ crore.
Medical Relief and control of epidemics	1½ crore.
Agricultural Schemes, e.g., crop statistics and larger outlay on Grow More Food Schemes	1 crore.
Total ...	7½ crores.

The revenue for the coming year is estimated at 29 crores, that is to say 7 crores less than the Revised. The decrease is due to the omission of the subvention received from the Centre in the current year. For the rest, it has been assumed that revenue next year will flow in practically at the same level as in the current year. There are only two exceptions to this. One is an increase due to the expected yield from the Agricultural Income-tax. The Agricultural Income-tax Act came into operation too late to produce any appreciable revenue under this head in the current year; but it is expected to bring in half a crore in 1945-46. The other is a reduction of half a crore in receipts from Income-tax in terms of the latest information furnished by the Government of India.

The estimated revenue expenditure in 1945-46 amounts to 37 crores or 10 crores less than the expenditure in the current year. Out of this, some 8 crores is accounted for by reduced losses on the sale of subsidised food and the balance is due to smaller provision for the treatment of sick destitutes and the control of epidemics.

The estimated revenue deficit in the coming year thus stands at 8 crores.

The actual revenue deficit in 1943-44 in spite of the three crore subvention from the Centre amounted to a little over 3 crores. This year the deficit, after taking into account the further subvention of 7 crores, is expected to come up to 11 crores. In 1945-46, as I have just explained, the deficit is estimated at 8 crores. In an Appendix to the printed copy of my statement, honourable members will find a list showing the amounts included in the estimates to meet expenditure necessitated by the abnormal conditions of War and Famine. These items add up (in round figures) to 14 crores in 1943-44, 29 crores in the current year and 18 crores in 1945-46—amounting to a grand total of 61 crores. This grand procession of figures is a measure of the impact of the War on Bengal.

I have already acknowledged the grant of 10 crores from the Government of India. I now desire to thank them publicly on the floor of this House. The Government of India have themselves labelled their gift as an *ex gratia* grant, thereby, I take it, emphasising its compassionate character. But, while humility is a strong armour in adversity—and it is perhaps meet and proper that I should don the weeds of woe—it is my bare duty to plead that our claim to an adequate financial assistance from the Centre in the present circumstances is based on what I consider to be the irrefutable logic of facts. It is more akin to a claim for compensation in a court of law. We have not sought to avoid our responsibility; nor have we actually spared ourselves in

respect of exertion and self-help. The Legislature has recently sanctioned the imposition of a tax on agricultural income and has authorised the doubling of the rates of the Sales Tax. There has been a steep upgrading of excise duties. And, finally, registration fees and process fees have been substantially enhanced. In comparison with the figures for 1942-43, we are hoping to obtain in 1945-46 an additional 4 crores under Excise, half a crore under Agricultural Income-tax, 2½ crores under Other Taxes inclusive of the Sales Tax and a crore under Land Revenue, Stamps and Registration. It may not on the face of it appear to be a very impressive record; but it must be remembered that our power to raise additional revenue has been seriously restricted by the financial settlement which governs the allocation of revenue between the Centre and the Provinces. This is hardly an appropriate occasion for me to explain at length how and why, from the point of view of what should be a correct basis of federal finance, the Niemeyer Award has been unfair to Bengal. But I wish to assure the House that our complete "case" has been presented to the Government of India by His Excellency the Governor and myself.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. I presume that the Budget speech is a part of the presentation of the case of Government for acceptance of the Government proposal during the coming year in connection with the demand for grants and here is an attempt to invoke the name of the Governor of Bengal to direct or misdirect the judgment of this House. It has always been held that the name of His Excellency the Governor in such connections should never be invoked nor the name of His Majesty the King in the Houses of Parliament. As a parliamentarian of some reputation, I would ask the Finance Minister of Bengal to delete the enconium or even any reference to His Excellency the Governor here in this House and in this manner.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is no point of order. You have asked the Finance Minister to delete a certain part.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The first part is for you, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: I was closely following the whole speech. Speaking for myself, I do not find anything in this speech invoking the name of His Excellency the Governor to get sanction from this House. This is a statement of fact made by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister and speaking for myself I do not find anything objectionable therein.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: It may, however, be a matter of some satisfaction to honourable members that our discussions have not yet reached a stage of finality and that it is reasonable to hope for a comprehensive settlement in the near future which will be free from any taint of injustice or niggardliness. I have already indicated that the Government of India's recent offer to share our "trading losses", under the Capital head "85-A", marks a more realistic approach to the question.

If I have not announced any new measure of taxation it is not because Government have not been considering further possibilities of augmenting our revenues.

To complete the picture, I shall now proceed to give a short account of the debt position of the Province. All our borrowings up till now have been either for the purpose of covering the revenue deficit and providing the requisite working balance at the close of the year; or for financing the large scale trading operations undertaken by Government in the Department of Civil Supplies. Bengal has not been able so far to float any loans for productive purposes, that is to say, for the financing of schemes of development such as large scale Irrigation projects or Hydro-electric Schemes which create additional wealth for the State. In other words, our debts so far have been all unproductive debts, with the possible exception of 2 crores

or so spent on the furtherance of the "Grow More Food Campaign". A part of the debt is covered by stocks held by the Department of Civil Supplies but the rest is not covered by any tangible assets.

In an Appendix to the printed copy of my statement honourable members will find a summary of our indebtedness on the 31st March of each of the years from 1944 to 1946. In this summary, the figures for drawal of loans so far as the years 1944-45 and 1945-46 are concerned will, of course, depend on the progress of procurement operations. If progress is slow and the drawal of loans is smaller than estimated, there will be a corresponding reduction in the stock figures but there will be no change in the net indebtedness. It will be observed that in spite of our utmost efforts to help ourselves and in spite of the financial assistance hitherto granted by the Government of India, we shall have more uncovered unproductive debt at the end of 1945-46 than at the end of 1944-45. This debt which stands at 11 crores on the 31st March, 1945, will reach 19 crores on the 31st March, 1946. The dead weight of this heavy burden has no counterpart, either in causation or in magnitude, in any of the other Provinces, large or small.

Events outside India are, at least in the European theatre of war, swiftly moving to a climax. How soon the war will end none of us would dare predict: nor how soon we may be able to set our hands, untrammelled by a sense of peril, to the arduous but fruitful tasks of reconstruction. Of physical destruction there has fortunately been little in our country; and to that extent our problems of post-war reconstruction may appear somewhat simpler. But the essential problem of reconstruction is the same everywhere, created by the same urge towards new degrees of achievement and organisation, towards a greater fulfilment of life by the assurance of a decent standard of living for each and all. That is the professed aim of all the post-war reconstruction "Plans" that I have seen or heard of.

We have already several non-official "Plans" in India. I do not propose to discuss any of them or attempt to assess their relative merits and their competitive claims to our acceptance. The distressing thought which is uppermost in my mind this afternoon is that Bengal will face the problem of reconstruction without that self-assurance which the other Major Provinces and States of India have been able to acquire. Of these not all have the right to say, as Mysore, moulded by the genius of Sir M. Visweswarayya, undoubtedly has, that their "reconstruction planning is in many directions a continuation or reorientation of past effort". I harbour no feeling of envious resentment against these sister Provinces and States, and, if I am debarred from sharing in their pride and advantage, I sincerely congratulate them on their prosperity and wish them godspeed. Nor would I wrong any of them by a petulant suggestion that hers is not the reward of prudent husbandry.

A number of Sub-Committees of the Government of Bengal's Post-War Reconstruction Committee, composed mainly of non-officials and experts, have been, to use expressions which have recently acquired particular connotation, "fixing targets" for the development of agriculture, education, industry, communications, health and housing, and their "blue-prints" will in due course be ready. According to the decision of the Government of India, Bengal, along with the other Provinces, will receive during the first five years after the war considerable financial assistance from the Centre for implementing our schemes. But unless we can add our share, out of our own resources, to these contributions, our efforts will have to be considerably more pedestrian. Our most urgent task nevertheless has been, and will for some time continue to be, the rehabilitation of our people. If we attain even a tolerable measure of success in rehabilitating our people, we will perhaps have laid a better and surer foundation for those achievements of security and well-being to which we and others aspire: We will have provided fairer prospects for the latent talent of our people and ensured an ampler scope to emergent Life.

STATEMENT I.

Bengal Budget, 1945-46.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

	Actuals, 1943-44.	1944-45. Budget.	1944-45. Revised.	Budget, 1945-46.
Receipts.				
Opening Balance	2,60,46	2,47,87	3,06,61	2,31,55
Revenue Receipts	23,71,72	21,97,44	35,65,85	28,78,75
Receipts from Debt Heads	1,06,04,89	85,35,17	1,71,96,87	1,70,66,24
Total ..	1,32,37,07	1,09,80,48	2,10,69,33	2,01,76,54
Expenditure.				
Revenue Expenditure	26,75,18	30,43,78	47,00,67	37,38,47
Capital Expenditure	30,20,67	−17,20,34	31,49,99	22,71,83
Expenditure on Debt Heads ..	72,34,61	1,07,21,72	1,29,87,12	1,38,85,52
Closing Balance	3,06,61	−10,64,68	2,31,55	2,80,72
Total ..	1,32,37,07	1,09,80,48	2,10,69,33	2,01,76,54
Net Result.				
Surplus+				
Deficit−				
(a) On Revenue Account ..	−3,03,46	−8,46,34	−11,34,82	−8,59,72
(b) Outside Revenue Account ..	+3,49,61	−4,66,21	+10,59,76	+9,08,89
(c) Net, excluding Opening Balance	+46,15	−13,12,55	−75,06	+49,17

STATEMENT II.

Statement of expenditure necessitated by war conditions and the famine and its aftermath.

[In thousands of rupees.]

	1943-44. (Actuals.)	1944-45. (Revised.)	1945-46. (Budget.)
I.—War.			
Civil Defence	1,06,00	1,23,00	1,22,00
Home Guards	7,00	10,00	13,00
Extra Police	20,00	20,00	23,00
Increase in cost of Jail Administration (over 1942-43)	69,00	57,00	58,00
Dearness Concessions—			
(i) Cash dearness allowance	83,00	2,17,00	2,81,00
(ii) Cost of food concessions	34,00	46,00	41,00
Subsidy to Calcutta Corporation	15,50	..	..
Civil Supplies Department	78,00	3,02,00	2,74,00
Loss on purchase of foodgrains	3,50,00	13,40,00	5.54,00
II.—Famine.			
Test Works	1,17,00	15,00	10,00
Gratuitous Relief	2,90,00	1,35,00	30,00
Blankets and clothings	40,00	15,00	20,00
Special medical relief	53,00	1,70,00	71,00
Special public health measures	32,00	1,30,00	52,00
Poor houses and orphanages	28,00	35,00	15,00
Rehabilitation	..	1,81,00	1,69,00
III.—Grow More Food Campaign.			
Gross outlay	1,00,00	1,12,00	77,00
Total ..	14,22,50	29,08,00	18,10,00

STATEMENT III.

Provincial Indebtedness on 31st March, 1944, 31st March, 1945 and 31st March, 1946.

[The figures are in thousands of rupees.]

	31st March, 1944.(a)	31st March, 1945.(b)	31st March, 1946.(c)
I. *Indebtedness*—			
Public—			
Treasury Bills	12,50,00	33,00,00	41,00,00
Imperial Bank Cash Credit Account ..	11,24,90	29,40,90	29,40,90
Government of India—			
Ways and Means, 1942	2,50,00	..	..
Ways and Means, 1943	3,00,00	..	..
Ways and Means, 1944	..	10,00,00	10,00,00
Ways and Means, 1945	..	..	22,00,00
Rice Loans—			
Out of 1½ crores	37,50	..	..
Out of 4 crores	1,00,00	..	..
Wheat Loans	87,50	..	..
Civil Defence Loan	1,79,95	2,47,53	2,95,40
Loan for closing Damodar Bund Breach ..	20,00	..	..
Grow More Food Loans	62,15	47,92	28,17
Total ..	34,12,00	75,36,35	1,05,64,47
II. *Assets*—			
Stocks—			
Stocks of foodgrains—			
Other than wheat	15.71,10	46,99,11	64,21,74
Wheat	11,76,68	7,32,27	6,39,73
Salt	21,43	83,61	1,00,29
Sugar	37,41	83,88	1,02,98
Standard Cloth	2,36,62	3,68,32	3,68,32
Boats	..	2,04,10	6,68,15
Total Stocks ..	30,43,24	61,71,29	83,61,21
Closing Balance	3,06,61	2,31,55	2,80,72
Total Assets	33,49,85	64,02,84	86,41,93
Net uncovered indebtedness (*i.e.*, I *minus* II) ..	62,15	11,33,51	19,22,54

(*a*) According to the Actuals for 1943-44.

(*b*) According to the Revised Estimates for 1944-45.

(*c*) According to the Budget Estimates for 1945-46.

Date for Discussion of Adjournment Motions.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, may I suggest that without breaking the convention of not taking up any other matter on the day when the budget is presented, the adjournment motions may be taken up in order next Monday. As no sitting is provided, we may do so without disturbing other programmes of the House. So, I suggest instead of adjourning the House to Tuesday next, we may adjourn it to Monday next. Otherwise we may proceed with the adjournment motions today here and now.

Mr. SPEAKER: Sir Nazimuddin, have you anything to say to that?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I have not heard Dr. Sanyal.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, will you please repeat what you said?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I submitted through the Speaker that the discussions of adjournment motions which could not be taken up because of the intervention of the budget speech of the Hon'ble Minister in charge could either be proceeded with today or if the convention of not taking up any other business on the budget presentation day is to be maintained, we may adjourn till Monday next instead of Tuesday. There is no business given on Monday. We can take up then the adjournment motions, particularly those which the Speaker might think wise to give his consent to on that day because that would not disturb the other programme of Government so far, for I am afraid any other date or dates for the adjournment motions would either encroach upon Government business or upon the privileges of this House for discussing the general budget or for examining the Rules of Procedure. I submit that the matters are so very urgent that we should take the earliest opportunity to discuss the same, particularly the cloth famine and the question of accidents in the streets of Calcutta. In this view, I submit that either you allow discussions today if the Hon'ble Chief Minister and the Leader of the House agrees or you may adjourn the House till Monday next instead of Tuesday.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: First of all, it is the practice that has been followed by you and by your predecessors that there will be only one adjournment motion that could be discussed. It will be either the cloth famine or the accidents in the streets of Calcutta. Therefore on any one day the question may be discussed if you agree to waive the question of urgency. I think that it will be possible next week to find a day when we can discuss the question.

As far as the street accidents are concerned, I am ready to sit with the leaders of parties or any other members and discuss the matter. I propose holding a press conference in which the representatives of the Allied Armies would be present to explain the position and the steps that we have taken and what we propose to do in the future. That question can be dealt with if the members of the Opposition agree without any debate or if they prefer to have a debate, I shall be glad to place all the facts before the House. But our difficulty is that it is not possible to have it on Monday because in view of the programme some of us have made arrangements to go out of Calcutta. The Civil Supplies Minister has got a definite engagement outside Calcutta on that day and if the adjournment motion on cloth famine comes up, his presence is essential. That is our difficulty. We would be very glad to give any date if we meet amongst ourselves and agree to have a discussion on one adjournment motion only according to the rules, which the Opposition may select, any day during the next eight or ten days.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, in view of the readiness of the Leader of the House to discuss the question of street accidents with party leaders and other relevant authorities in camera to devise better and more effective measures of control—and that is what I have been really aiming at—I do not like to press the motion in the House. But I hope that that matter would be taken up more seriously.

With regard to the question of cloth famine, I submit that from Tuesday onwards for four days we have the general discussion of the Budget allotted and either of the days will have to be sacrificed if the question of cloth famine is to be taken up. In that event even if we agree to take it up on any of these days, may we submit that we may have a longer sitting, particularly on a day when there will be no sitting of the Council and after disposing of the adjournment motion we can take up the general discussion of the Budget so that the privilege of the members at least once in a year to discuss the Budget might not be encroached upon by an adjournment motion of that character.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, the honourable member has taken for granted that the adjournment motion on cloth famine is admissible during this session. I submit that it would not be admissible. But I agree to the proposal subject to the admissibility of the motion.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, as far as the suggestion for extending the hours of sitting is concerned, it may be possible to meet the wishes of the members of the Opposition on that point. But if the Council is not meeting any day we may have a discussion of the adjournment motion on that day without curtailing the time for general discussion of the Budget.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 6-30 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Tuesday, the 20th February, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 20th February, 1945, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 12 Hon'ble Ministers and 185 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Increment of family allowance of Sj. Jadunath Bhattacharya, a security prisoner.

*13. **Rai Bahadur JOGESH CHANDRA SEN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*a*) that Sj. Jadunath Bhattacharya was made a security prisoner on the 15th September, 1940, and is at present lodged in the Dacca Central Jail;

(*b*) that he was the headmaster of a free primary school and was a homeopathic doctor as well;

(*c*) that his income ranged between Rs.50 and Rs.60 per mensem;

(*d*) that he has to support his wife, a newly-born daughter and a relative—three in all;

(*e*) that at present his family is receiving only Rs.25 as allowance;

(*f*) that he petitioned for increment of allowance;

(*g*) that his wife had to sell two thatched houses and ornaments to meet the expenses; and

(*h*) what action Government have taken upon the petition referred to in (*f*)?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Yes, but he was arrested on the 16th September, 1940.

(*b*) Before arrest he was practising as a homeopathic doctor and was serving irregularly as a teacher in a primary school.

(*c*) No. The Home Minister's information is that he could hardly earn Rs.10 per month.

(*d*) The wife and a baby are his only dependants.

(*e*) and (*f*) Yes.

(*g*) I have no information.

(*h*) Prayer for enhancement has been rejected after due consideration.

Granting of allowance to certain detenus.

*14. **Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether any allowance has been granted to the following detenus, viz.:—

(*i*) Amulya Mukherji detained in Midnapore Jail;

(*ii*) Birendra Chandra Saha, Dum Dum Central Jail;

(*iii*) Lalitbandhu Chakravarty, Dum Dum Central Jail;
(*iv*) Prafulla Chandra Nandi, Dum Dum Central Jail;
(*v*) Rebati Mohan De, Dum Dum Central Jail;
(*vi*) Khagendra Chandra Dhar Chowdhury, Dum Dum Central Jail;
(*vii*) Anantalal Banikya, Dum Dum Central Jail;
(*viii*) Anil Rai Choudhury, B.L., detained in Midnapore Jail;
(*ix*) Kamal Rai Chowdhury, B.A., detained in Rajshahi Jail;
(*x*) Radharaman Mitra;
(*xi*) Birendra Kumar Bhattacharjee, detained in the Midnapore Central Jail;
(*xii*) Haralal Rai;
(*xiii*) Ramesh Ghosh, Central Jail, Dacca; and
(*xiv*) Probodh Chandra Das Gupta, Dum Dum Jail?

(*b*) If so, what is the amount granted to each of them?

(*c*) If no allowance has been granted to any one of them, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any application has been received from them or their relatives for the grant of such allowance?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why no allowance has been granted?

(*e*) Do the Government consider the desirability of granting an adequate allowance to all the detenus who have got families?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) and (*b*) There are no security prisoners named Babus Haralal Rai and Probodh Chandra Das Gupta. As regards others a statement is placed on the Library Table.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The honourable member is referred to my reply to (*a*) and (*b*).

(*e*) Does not arise.

Amenities for detenus in certain matters and periodical review of cases of political prisoners.

*15. **Mr. PRATUL CHANDRA GANGULI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what steps, if any, have been taken for regular and periodical reviews of the cases of political prisoners with a view to securing their release;

(*ii*) what steps, if any, have been taken to increase diet allowance of the security prisoners which was fixed a year ago, in view of the abnormal rise in prices; and whether the increment, if any, is in proportion to the rise in prices of foodstuff;

(*iii*) what steps, if any, have been taken to provide amenities to detenus regarding clothing, medical attendance, interviews, study, letters and miscellaneous supplies, item by item; and

(*iv*) how many security prisoners have been granted family allowance and the amount granted in each case, since April 24, 1943?

(*b*) Do the Government contemplate to take immediate steps in the matter?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) The Restriction and Detention Ordinance (Ordinance III of 1944) promulgated on the 15th of January, 1944, enacts in a self-contained instrument the provisions relating to restriction, detention, etc., hitherto embodied in rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules but introduces the following new features:—

(1) Provision is made for communication to the security prisoner of the grounds on which he is detained so far as this can be done without disclosing facts which it would be against the public interest to disclose. Persons detained also now have right to make, if they so wish, a representation against the order and they are to be informed of this right and given the earliest practical opportunity of making such a representation.

(2) The duration of an order of detention is now restricted to 6 months unless within that period a further order of Government is made after a review of all available materials (including the prisoner's representation, if any) for its extension.

(3) Provision has been made for submission to Government for confirmation or cancellation of all orders of detention passed by subordinate authorities in the exercise of delegated powers.

These provisions apply to all orders previously made under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules. These are validated by the Ordinance and are given effect to as if they had been made under the Ordinance and necessary measures have been taken to give effect to these provisions.

In addition to detailed review of individual cases referred to above, a general review of all cases is constantly being made in consultation with Government's Security Advisers and persons whose continued detention is no longer considered necessary are being released.

(*ii*) Immediately on the assumption of offices by the present Ministry orders were issued to raise the diet allowance from 12 annas to Rs.1-8 per day. Foodgrains and other dietary articles are supplied from jail stock at cost price and in respect of controlled articles at the controlled prices: where the original cost price at which jail supplies were obtained was higher than the controlled price, the difference is borne by Government. The question of increasing the diet allowance still further is under consideration of Government.

(*iii*) The honourable member's attention is invited to the Bengal Security Prisoners Rules, 1940, as from time to time amended, copies of which are in the Library. All articles of clothing and personal effects supplied to the prisoners are treated as their property and replaced periodically according to the normal period of serviceability of each article. The used articles surrendered by the prisoners at the time of replacement are allowed to be sent to their friends, relatives and charitable organisations and to be taken away on release.

Steps have been taken to depute specialists from the Medical College, Calcutta, to attend to the prisoners in complicated cases of illness and to remove sick prisoners to outside hospitals in cases where proper treatment cannot be given inside the jail.

All reasonable facilities for interviews with the prisoners are allowed. The restrictions imposed on the interviews and communications of the Midnapore security prisoners detained in connection with the "Congress movement" have been withdrawn.

The staff engaged in the censorship of the security prisoners' communications has been strengthened with a view to minimise the delay in censorship. The communications which conform to the Bengal Security Prisoners Rules are now censored with the least possible delay.

Steps have been taken for the supply of dentures at Government cost in suitable cases. Subject to the overriding consideration of security, steps have been taken for the prisoners to visit near relatives who are very seriously ill, where they can return to jail within a reasonable time.

The desirability of supplying audi-phones at Government cost is under consideration.

(*iv*) The information is not readily available and its collection will involve an expenditure of time and labour which would not be justified in the present emergency.

(*b*) The honourable member is referred to my reply to (*a*).

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if his personal attention has ever been drawn to the delay or unwillingness on the part of the jail authorities to comply with the general instructions issued by Government under the Bengal Security Prisoners Rules as contained in (*a*) (*iii*)?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, and they were enquired into.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state what machinery Government have devised to ensure that letters and correspondence written by or to the prisoners do get to the destination within a reasonable time?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED Ali: Yes, Sir, I refer the honourable member to the reply given just now that censorship staff has been strengthened.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state what is "reasonable time" in his estimate for a letter from the Presidency Jail in Calcutta to reach a person residing in Calcutta through the machinery of the strengthened staff?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if he is aware that the questioner himself received a letter addressed to him by his nephew in the Presidency Jail which took 10 days to come?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if he is aware that this member had to invite the attention of the Deputy Secretary, Home (Jails) Department, to the case of his widowed sister's interview with her son in the Presidency Jail which was not granted to her, although she was the mother of the security prisoner, for nearly three weeks after her application?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if it is a fact that even though the attention of the Deputy Secretary, Home (Jails) Department was invited to the matter and he expressed surprise at this delay, the interview did not take place for nearly 10 days thereafter?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already said that I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if he is aware that when a due date of interview has thus expired, no facility is given to the security prisoner or the relations to repeat the interview when particularly they have to come from a distance outside Calcutta?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Unless a good case is made out, that may be the usual procedure, but sometimes facility is again granted.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state what compensation or what compassion is shown to a person who comes from outside in expectation of a due date of interview but is refused or not granted the interview and whether Government is considering the desirability of permitting such persons to have interviews within a short period, not waiting till the next time after a fortnight arrives?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know if the honourable member is referring to any specific instance; if so and if he writes to the Government, the matter will be looked into.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: With reference to the answer that the staff engaged in the censorship of the security prisoners' communications has been strengthened, will the Hon'ble Minister tell the House whether short-notice questions or adjournment motions sent by the M.L.A. prisoners in jail are detained for a long time and they do not reach the Hon'ble Speaker in due time?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: As has been replied to on several occasions, previously there used to be some delay no doubt because of the inadequacy of the staff, but the staff has been strengthened and now there is not much delay in communications—either in transmission or receipt.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: With reference to the answer, viz., "Steps have been taken for the supply of dentures at Government cost in suitable cases, subject to the overriding consideration of security, steps have been taken for the prisoners to visit near relatives who are very seriously ill, where they can return to jail within a reasonable time", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what does he mean by "a reasonable time"?

Mr. SPEAKER: "Reasonable time" means reasonable time. You cannot ask a question like that.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a reasonable time if it takes three days to come and three days to go?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware that even now letters written by security prisoners take more than a month to reach the destination?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government's information is otherwise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of revising his answer, if I show to him a letter written by one Mriganka Kumar Ghose, a security prisoner in the Rajshahi Central Jail, dated the 11th December, 1944, reaching this morning, that is, the 20th February, 1945?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: If the honourable member will give me a copy and writes to me officially, the matter will be looked into.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if this question refers to all political prisoners detained under the Security Prisoners Rules—security prisoners under the Defence of India Rules and under Regulation III of 1818?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It relates to political security prisoners.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is there any difference in the amenities granted to Regulation III prisoners from those granted to security prisoners under the Defence of India Rules?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that elsewhere in the Bengal Legislative Council the names of Mr. Pratul Chandra Ganguly and Mr. Sib Nath Banerji were left out from the list of detained M.L.As. and M.L.Cs. referred to by the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge in answer to a question put by a member there? Is there any chance of their early release?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware what happened in the other House.

Regarding security prisoner Ram Sevak Sarma.

***16. Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware of the fact—

(*i*) that Mr. Ram Sevak Sarma was made a security prisoner in October, 1942, while working in the Birla Jute Mills, Budge Budge, on a salary of Rs.72 per month;

(*ii*) that his salary was the mainstay of his family consisting of his old father, mother, widowed aunt, wife and five children;

(*iii*) that his family since his arrest is in hardship; and

(*iv*) that Mr. Ram Sevak Sarma sent a petition in the month of December, 1942, from Alipore Central Jail, to the Additional Deputy Secretary, Government of Bengal (Home Department), for family allowance to which up till now he has got no answer?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*iv*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of granting a suitable family allowance to Mr. Ram Sevak Sarma at an early date?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) He was arrested in November, 1942, but as he was released on 13th April, 1943, it was not considered necessary to obtain further information

(*b*) Does not arise.

Shortage of nurses for civil hospitals in Bengal.

***17. Mr. M. A. F. HIRTZEL:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department aware that there is a serious shortage of nurses for civil hospitals in Bengal?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government have completed their examination of the proposals submitted to Government in July, 1941, by the committee appointed by Government to examine the training conditions of nurses, etc., and formulate proposals for the improvement of their training?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action Government propose to take on the proposals of the committee?

(*d*) If not, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when Government expect to complete their examination of the proposals?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise at present.

(*d*) As soon as return of more normal conditions makes it possible to give sufficient time to study the proposals with proper care and consideration.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain why Government is taking over three years to examine the recommendations of the Committee?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: While the scheme was under consideration, the war came in and Government could not finish their examination of the scheme.

Mr. A. F.STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he regards the shortage of nurses as a post-war problem?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No, Sir. It is not only a post-war problem, but even now Government feel the necessity of more nurses, and accordingly they are training nurses in the Campbell Hospital from the last year and have also made provision for 10 scholarships in the Dufferin Hospital.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of taking up the examination of the recommendations of the Committee immediately?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Yes. It is a scheme which is being considered along with other suggestions of post-war schemes, but, in the meantime, as I have said, Government have taken steps to increase the trained nurses.

Contract for the construction of the Rajbari Camp Hospital.

***18. Mr. BIRAT CHANDRA MANDAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state if it is a fact—

(*a*) that one Fazlu Mia, uncle of Maulvi Abdul Salam Khan, Secretary of the Faridpur District Muslim League, has been given the contract for the construction of the Rajbari Camp Hospital;

(*b*) that the contract for the Rajbari Camp Hospital was originally given by the Subdivisional Officer, Rajbari, to Maulvi Khandkar Abdul Majid, C.W.D. contractor, on 18th February, 1944, and that the District Magistrate on his own initiative transferred the contract to Fazlu Mia on the 6th March, 1944;

(*c*) that the Subdivisional Officer, Rajbari, at first refused to pay the bill of the said Fazlu Mia on the ground of inefficient and incomplete work;

(*d*) that the said Subdivisional Officer passed the bill after deducting a sum of Rs.135 as compensation; and

(*e*) that the District Magistrate directed the payment of the full amount from the District fund though the payment was to be made from the Subdivisional funds?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) Yes. The fact that Maulvi Fazlur Rahman is the uncle of Maulvi Abdus Salam Khan, Secretary, Faridpur District Moslem League, was not known at the time he was given the contract.

(*b*) The Subdivisional Officer, Rajbari, was finding it difficult to get local contractors to construct the hospital sheds on the pattern and at the rates approved by Government. He brought the fact to the notice of the District Magistrate, who deputed Maulvi Fazlur Rahman. In the meanwhile Maulvi Abdul Majid expressed his willingness to the Subdivisional Officer to do the work but no work was given to him.

(*c*) and (*d*) In respect of one item of the bill the charge exceeded the stipulated rate. The Subdivisional Officer recommended reduction of the excess claim, which was so reduced. The Subdivisional Officer also recommended reduction of the bill by Rs.135 in respect of one incompleted item, which was also so reduced, pending the completion of the work.

(*e*) No. There is no such Subdivisional fund as distinct from the District fund. The entire expenditure, on account of the Famine Relief Scheme, is met from the fund placed under the "54—Famine" Budget of the Government.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any tender was called for this work before the contract was given out?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Yes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many tenders were received and what were the rates?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that this was a secretive arrangement made between the Subdivisional Officer and the contractor, Maulvi Fazlur Rahman, as mentioned in answer (*b*), and that there was no tender whatsoever?

Mr. SPEAKER: I disallow that question.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Supersession of Chittagong Municipality and appointment of officer in charge during period of supersession.

1. Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOUDHURY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how long the Chittagong Municipality has been superseded; and

(*ii*) during the period of supersession whether any Muslim officer has been placed in charge of the same?

(*b*) Do the Government propose to appoint a Muslim officer in place of Babu Raghunath Banerjee, B.C.S., who was in charge of the Chittagong Municipality and who has recently been transferred to Cox's Bazar?

MINISTER in charge of the LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) (*i*) Since 6th April, 1942.

(*ii*) No.

(*b*) The orders transferring Babu Raghunath Banerjee, B.C.S., to Cox's Bazar have been cancelled; hence the question of appointing a Muslim officer in his place does not arise.

Appointment of Lawyer-Magistrates.

2. Khan Bahadur Md. ANWARUL AZIM: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*)(*i*) how many Lawyer-Magistrates have been appointed so far, and

(*ii*) how many more candidates for Lawyer-Magistrates have been finally selected and medically examined;

(*b*) when these candidates are going to be appointed;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that these appointments are held up to give appointment to officers of other provinces and of the military;

(*d*) whether any candidates have been directed to furnish fresh medical certificates with an assurance of being appointed; and

(*e*) whether it is a fact that they have not been appointed although medical certificates have been duly furnished?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khawaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) 60.

(*ii*) 88.

(*b*) The question of further appointment of Lawyer-Magistrates is under the consideration of Government and no decision has yet been reached.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Some candidates were asked to produce certificates of fitness, but no assurance regarding appointment was given to them.

(*e*) Does not arise.

Rate of compensation paid for acquisition of lands, etc., in Feni and other places in Chittagong Division.

3. Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOUDHURY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state the rate of compensation paid for acquisition for military purposes of lands and houses and of damages for destruction of standing crops and trees thereon separately in Feni, Noakhali Sadar, Chandpur, Comilla (North and South), Chittagong Sadar (A and B) and Cox's Bazar subdivision in Chittagong Division?

(*b*) If there is any difference in the aforesaid rates, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to remove the difference?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT: (the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea): (*a*) There has been no acquisition of land for military purposes in the Chittagong Division except in the district of Chittagong where compensation was paid at the rate of Rs.500 per acre. The rest of the question does not arise.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Repatriation of destitutes.

4. Khan Bahadur JASIMUDDIN AHMED: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many destitutes are there awaiting repatriation in each of the reception centres of Calcutta by the end of October; and

(*b*) how many of them are adults—male and female, and children—male and female belonging to communities Muslim and non-Muslim?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: A statement furnishing the information is laid on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to unstarred question No. 4.

Name of the centre.	Muslim.					Non-Muslim.					Total of columns 6 and 11.
	Adult.		Children.		Total.	Adult.		Children.		Total.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.		Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
1, Bahirsura Road ..	280	110	168	73	631	754	417	187	88	1,446	2,077
55, Harish Chatterji Street ..	11	19	21	16	67	38	96	84	97	315	382
29, Balmukunda Road ..	100	49	..	..	149	..	..	..	..	..	149
										Grand Total ..	2,608

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to the statement of destitutes forcibly evacuated and repatriated and of those who are awaiting repatriation in each of the reception centres, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the present position regarding those destitutes? Have they been repatriated since, or are they still awaiting repatriation?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Some have been repatriated.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of these 2,608 persons have ultimately been repatriated in alive condition?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of these destitutes in the three relief centres died?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I want notice.

Release of Babu Sailendra Nath Datta, a security prisoner, on grounds of health.

5. Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Political) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that Babu Sailendra Nath Datta of Midnapore is detained in the Midnapore Central Jail as a security prisoner since his arrest on the 15th April, 1942;

(*ii*) that the said prisoner before his arrest was on three months' medical leave for his treatment in Calcutta or in a suitable place in his restriction period;

(*iii*) that he could not avail of the medical treatment because of his sudden arrest;

(*iv*) that he fell seriously ill in the month of March, 1943, and was admitted into the Jail Hospital and stayed there for months;

(*v*) that for the period he stayed in the hospital he had a stomach trouble, nausea, spasms and pain in the left lung and pleura;

(*vi*) that he is still under medical treatment though living in the ward;

(*vii*) that the Superintendent held that the said prisoner should have been X'rayed and the examination was necessary for proper diagnosis of his disease;

(*viii*) that he has lost 37 lbs. in weight;

(*ix*) that now he cannot walk with the help of stick even;

(*x*) that now he suffers from slow fever every day and vomitting tendency and pain in the left lung and pleura, and vomitting at intervals; and

(*xi*) that on examination two patches were found when he was under restriction before his arrest?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of arranging for the proper diagnosis of the disease of the said prisoner?

(*c*) Do the Government contemplate to release him for treatment by the guardians of the said prisoner?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that the Superintendent of the Midnapore Central Jail has recommended for his release as he is getting invalid gradually?

(*e*) If the reply to (*d*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action he has taken or proposes to take in the matter?

(*f*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that the said prisoner has applied to the Government stating that he is a Communist and a supporter of the anti-Fascist people's war?

(*g*) If the reply to (*f*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of releasing him in view of the policy adopted by the Government for the Communist party?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*)(*i*) and (*vi*) Yes.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) I have no information.

(*iv*) My information is that the prisoner was having evening rise of temperature at the time for which he was in hospital from 28th March, 1943, to 29th April, 1943, and again from 6th May, 1943, to 27th July, 1943.

(*v*) He complained of nausea and pain in the left chest.

(*vii*) The former Jail Superintendent considered X'ray examination necessary. But no such examination is considered necessary by the present Superintendent.

(*viii*), (*ix*) and (*xi*) No.

(*x*) He suffers from chronic colitis and indigestion. He also complains of pain in the chest.

(*b*) My information is that he is having proper treatment.

(*c*), (*d*) and (*g*) No.

(*e*) Does not arise.

(*f*) Yes.

Persons detained under the Defence of India Rules.

6. Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) what effect Government have given or propose to give regarding the observations of the Chief Justice of the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta, to the effect that each person detained without trial under Defence of India Rules should be informed on what specific charges he or she is being detained, so that he or she can try to rebut the charges;

(*b*) what effect Government have given or propose to give to the decisions of the Hon'ble Federal Court at New Delhi with regard to—

(*i*) the 8 respondents and secondly

(*ii*) the rest of the detenus under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that persons arrested under the Defence of India Rules after 3rd June, 1943, were not being confined under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules, but—

(*i*) being sent to Delhi, if they are political prisoners or

(*ii*) being detained at 61, Amherst Street, Calcutta, and at other places if they are criminal prisoners (black-out);

(*d*) the number of such persons referred to in (*c*)(*i*) and (*ii*); and

(*e*) under what authority they have been and are being detained after expiry of 60 days from the dates of their arrests?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) All persons previously detained under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules are now by provisions of the Restriction and Detention Ordinance, 1944, deemed to have been detained under this Ordinance, and according to this Ordinance every security

prisoner is informed of the ground under which he or she is detained so far as this can be done without disclosing facts which it would be against the public interest to disclose. Persons detained also now have right to make, if they so wish, a representation against the order and they are informed of this right and given the earliest practical opportunity of making such a representation.

(*b*) The matter is the subject of an appeal now pending before the Privy Council, but immediately after the pronouncement of the decision of the Federal Court which held that no order of detention could validly be made under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules, except after the Governor had personally applied his mind to the case and been satisfied that making of such an order was necessary, steps were taken to institute a review of all the cases of security prisoners then under detention with a view to issue fresh orders in the cases in which continued detention was considered necessary. The cases of all the security prisoners have already been reviewed. The materials in each case were examined by the department and by myself and the case was submitted to His Excellency the Governor for consideration and orders. The same procedure has also been followed in the cases of all prisoners arrested and detained since the pronouncement of the Federal Court decision referred to above.

(*c*)(*i*) On retransfer from Delhi fresh orders under Defence of India Rule 26 were issued by the Bengal Government.

(*ii*) No.

(*d*) I am not prepared to furnish the information asked for in the public interest.

(*e*) Since the pronouncement of the Federal Court decision, the cases of all newly arrested persons are examined by the department and by myself and then they are submitted to His Excellency the Governor for consideration and orders. Previous to the promulgation of the Restriction and Detention Ordinance, 1944, orders of detention in such cases issued under rule 26, Defence of India Rules, but since its promulgation, detention orders are being issued under this Ordinance.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Post-war Reconstruction Scheme for construction of roads in partially excluded areas of Mymensingh district.

***19. Maharaja BHUPENDRA CHANDRA SINGHA, of Susang:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce, Labour and Industries (Post-War Reconstruction) Department be pleased to state if any comprehensive scheme for the construction of roads in partially excluded areas of the Mymensingh district is engaging their attention?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE, LABOUR and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (The Hon'ble Mr. K. Shahabuddin): Yes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of——. Sir, why should it be "Commerce, Labour"? This question relates to road construction.

Mr. SPEAKER: This is a question of post-war reconstruction.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is not a question of post-war reconstruction; it is a question of construction of roads in the post-war period.

Mr. SPEAKER: If Government think that it is a question concerning Commerce and Labour Department, what can I do?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of whichever Department the question may relate to be pleased to state which particular Department of Government is dealing with the question of road construction in the partially excluded areas?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN? Does it arise, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Strictly speaking, I do not think that this question arises.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, it does arise out of the answer given. The question is whether any scheme is engaging Government's attention to which the answer is "yes". My supplementary question is which particular Department's attention is engaged to this problem.

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Obviously the Communications and Works Department.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the construction of roads in the partially excluded areas is a matter of Ministerial responsibility or a matter of Governor's discretion?

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot allow that question. That is a question of opinion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am just trying to find out whether the answer is consistent with the facts.

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot do that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which are the roads in the partially excluded areas of the Mymensingh district which are now under examination?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: There are a number of roads—one is in Durgapur which is 504 miles (I can give the lengths of the roads if my friend wants), one is Sribari, one is Nalitabari, one is Haluaghat another is Kamalkund.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the points between which the Durgapur Road is projected and whether the road project has got any linking up with the national highways of Assam and Bengal?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: For detailed information I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has got any information in his possession regarding the order of recommendations of the District Magistrate and the Divisional Commissioner in regard to these 4 road projects?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: The recommendations are ordinarily treated as confidential documents and even if they had not been I would not have given the answer.

Re-filing of vokalatnama along with application for copies of khatians, etc., from Collectorate.

*20. **Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was a practice before 1943, to file vokalatnama or muktearnama along with the application for copies of khatians and other papers from the Collectorate, Chittagong, and other districts;

(*b*) the reason why the vokalatnama or muktearnama is being called for now along with such application;

(*c*) whether he is aware of the preliminary enquiry that is being made for ascertaining the interest of the person applying for copy of khatians;

(*d*) whether there was any such practice formerly;

(*e*) whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware of the difficulty and hardship done to the public by the introduction of the new practice of filing vokalatnama or muktearnama;

(*f*) whether the new practice has been enforced under the Government circular or under the order of the Officer in charge of the Copying Department;

(*g*) whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware of the protest made by the public as well as by the District Bar Association of Chittagong; and

(*h*) whether the Government contemplate to stop the new practice of demanding vokalatnama or muktearnama and aforesaid enquiry in order to save the public from unnecessary troubles and harassment and delay?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: (*a*) and (*g*) No.

(*b*) No vokalatnama or muktearnama is being called for now.

(*c*) and (*d*) An applicant is called upon to prove his interest only in special cases when the *bona fide* of the applicant is doubted.

(*e*), (*f*) and (*h*) Do not arise

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether generally any *vakalatnama* is necessary for taking certified copies of khatians and other papers?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I have already stated that no *vakalatnama* is demanded.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any *vakalatnama* is necessary for proving one's interest?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Yes, if there is any dispute.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that *vakalatnama* is necessary only for identification of the applicant's interest?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of opinion.

Requisition of Md. Jan Muslim High School buildings.

***21. Mr. CIASUDDIN AHMED:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether he is aware—

(*a*) that the Md. Jan Muslim High School, situated at 9B, Balsi Dutt Street, is the only Moslem institution in the locality with its own building and imparting free education;

(*b*) that the said building was requisitioned by Government under order No. 12458/P-88 of 10th November, 1944;

(*c*) that the school premises at 9B, Balai Dutt Street, were vacated on the 11th November, 1944, and handed over to representatives of Government on the 13th November, 1944;

(*d*) that the building is still lying unoccupied;

(*e*) that the Superintending Engineer, Eastern Aviation Circle No. IV, Calcutta, for whose office the building was at first requisitioned has since found better quarters elsewhere;

(*f*) that the school building is now proposed to be used for housing the Coal Department;

(*g*) that a memorial signed by five thousand respectable gentlemen of the locality was presented to His Excellency the Governor of Bengal asking the Governor to alter the decision of the Requisition Board;

(*h*) that an interview with His Excellency the Governor was sought to make personal representations to him in the matter;

(*i*) that such interview was refused; and

(*j*) whether he proposes to release the school building in order to permit the normal functioning of a very useful Muslim educational institution in Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: (*a*) No. There is another school in the neighbourhood for Muslim boys, imparting free education.

(*b*) and (*c*) Yes.

(*d*) to (*f*) The building was requisitioned for the Government of India for use as offices, and handed over to the Central Public Works Department. I have no information as to the actual use being made of the building. It may be vacant temporarily.

(*g*) to (*i*) I have no information on these points.

(*j*) Since the building has been requisitioned for the Government of India, it cannot be released without the consent of the latter. In view of the demand from Central Government Departments for office accommodation in Calcutta, it is extremely doubtful whether this consent will be forthcoming.

Reconstitution of the Dinajpur District Board.

*22. **Miss MIRA DUTTA GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) when the District Board of Dinajpur was last constituted after the members had been elected and nominated;

(*ii*) what is the statutory period of life for a District Board in the Province;

(*iii*) whether the District Board of Dinajpur has passed the statutory period of life; and

(*iv*) if so, when?

(*b*) If the reply to (*iii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why fresh election has not been arranged or declared yet?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) (*i*) In August, 1939.

(*ii*) Five years.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) In August, 1944.

(*b*) The local boards in the district of Dinajpur were abolished with effect from the 16th January, 1944. The next general election of the district board will be held under Rules for Direct Election to District Boards, after the district is divided into territorial constituencies under rule 2 of the said rules. The Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division has been requested to formulate a scheme for the delimitation of constituencies of the District Board of Dinajpur and to submit the same to Government at an early date.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the Commissioner of the Rajshahi Division was requested to formulate a scheme for the delimitation of constituencies?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I cannot give the exact date.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no action was taken from before the statutory period expired for the delimitation of constituencies?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: There is no question of the statutory period having expired. But as soon as the District Board decided to abolish the local boards Government accepted the recommendation of the District Board and thereby abolished the local boards. Thereafter arose the questions of election and delimitation of constituencies.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Has the Commissioner submitted any scheme to Government for the delimitation of constituencies?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Yes. The Commissioner is in correspondence and some preliminaries have to be undertaken and they are under examination of Government.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: When does the Hon'ble Minister expect to hold the elections under the new rules?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: As soon as the question of delimitation is decided Government will take up the question of elections there.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us some idea when Government expect to hold the elections?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I cannot give the actual date. It will take one year or more.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: One year from now?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Yes.

Vagrants Homes at Mahalandi in the district of Murshidabad.

*23. **Mr. ROGERS HAYWOOD:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state if it is a fact that—

(*i*) a site for the construction of Homes for the accommodation of approximately 5,000 beggars was secured by Government at Mahalandi, Murshidabad district, in August, 1942;

(*ii*) staff consisting of a controller and six managers with appropriate clerical and menial staff was appointed for the management of the Homes in 1942; and

(*iii*) in reply to starred question No. 44 of 19th February, 1943, the then Hon'ble Minister for Public Health and Local Self-Government stated that the Homes would be completed and ready for occupation by the end of May, 1943?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Homes at Mahalandi are now completed and ready for occupation?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what are the reasons for the delay;

(*ii*) when it is expected that the Homes will be completed and ready for occupation; and

(*iii*) what work is being done by the controller and six managers appointed to manage the Homes?

(*d*) If the Homes have been completed will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken to remove beggars in Calcutta to the Homes in terms of the Bengal Vagrancy Act, 1943?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) (*i*) Difficulties in obtaining building materials and shortage of Engineering staff for effective supervision of contractors.

(*ii*) I cannot forecast any definite date. Attempt is being made to complete it as soon as possible.

(*iii*) They are administering the two Homes in Calcutta which have been opened from August, 1943, to October, 1944, and have prepared a third which has just been opened.

(*d*) Two thousand four hundred and sixty-eight persons have been arrested and declared as vagrants and have been detained. Of these, 899 have died (mostly in the closing months of 1943), 284 have been repatriated and 335 have been discharged. The number at present in detention is 950.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what amount of money has already been spent in the construction or equipment of Vagrants Homes at Mahalandi?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I would ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what the Controller of Vagrancy did between February, 1942, when he was appointed and August, 1943, when he was given charge of the Calcutta Homes?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: He had to recruit suitable officers, make the appointments and had to draw up schemes for housing these vagrants.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the construction of these Vagrants Homes was decided upon as an emergent measure to be carried out with the greatest expedition by the then Government?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Yes.

Mr. ROGERS HAYWOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in view of his answer (*d*), namely that about 900 deaths took place the words "Vagrants Homes" are perhaps a misnomer?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I could not follow the honourable member. Does he mean to say that the vagants will not die?

Mr. ROGERS HAYWOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enlighten the House as to why so many of these poor men, 900 in number, having been taken to the Homes so easily died and to state whether they were given any food while under detention there?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: When they were taken there their condition of health was so bad that it was only natural that some of them would die.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that the construction of these Vagrants Homes was decided upon and a contractor was chosen not by the Department of Communications and Works but by the Secretary of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department of Government?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Yes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any tender was invited in regard to the construction of these Homes and whether in those tenders any specific date was given for completion?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No tender was called for the work as a whole because the work was being done under the direct supervision of the department but for materials tenders were called.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that six firms were entrusted with the work as contractors for the job by the Secretary of the Local Self-Government Department who himself selected the tenderers and who himself arranged the separate blocks for which each tenderer or contractor would have to work?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The Secretary had nothing to do directly but the Controller was put in charge of the work under the direct supervision of the District Engineer of Murshidabad.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that after completion of the Vagrants Homes and after the officers were actually placed there for taking charge and after a few vagrants were actually lodged therein, the Engineering Department of the Government of Bengal inspected the buildings and reported that those buildings were quite unsuitable and would collapse any moment and that therefore they had to be demolished at Government cost to be rebuilt again?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the present position of the Vagrants Homes? Are they still standing? Were they completed at any stage or not?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The construction has not yet been completed.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what portion of the construction remains unfinished?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I cannot give you the details. It requires the opinion of the expert Engineering staff to tell you what parts remain unfinished.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that in February, 1943, the then Minister for Local Self-Government stated that the necessary building materials had been obtained and that the Homes would be completed and ready for occupation by the end of May, 1943?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Every step was taken to expedite the construction but nothing could be done for want of suitable supervising authority for the work and due to the abnormal conditions now prevailing and also want of materials at the site.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain, in view of the fact that the construction of these Homes has been going on since August, 1942, what work is exactly being done at these camps to complete them at present?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The Department originally asked the Communications and Works Department to take up the work but as that department was then engaged in more important works they expressed their inability to take up the work immediately. Hence the department had to undertake the work and decided to get the work done under the supervision of the District Engineer of Murshidabad. But after proceeding for some

time it was found that the work was not going on satisfactorily. Then Government referred the matter to the Communications and Works Department for the transfer of the work directly under the supervision of the Communications and Works Department, and for this some preliminaries have had to be gone into.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is to be understood that nothing at all has been done to complete these camps?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The work has been suspended because, as I have already said, some preliminaries have to be finished whereby the Communications and Works Department can step in and take up the work.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the money for the construction of these camps was voted by this House?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want notice.

Mr. ROGERS HAYWOOD: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in view of the high death rate which is over a third of those who had been admitted in the camps he will inform the House whether there is any qualified medical officer at these local hospitals in Calcutta to examine them?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Yes, there are some medical officers.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that more than two lakhs of rupees were actually spent in the supposed construction of the Vagrant Homes at Mahalandi and it was the report of the Engineering Department of the Communications and Works Department that another lakh of rupees would be required to demolish the construction and make the place suitable for further reconstruction?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I am not aware of any such report that construction had to be demolished.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that parts of the buildings were actually completed and occupied by the officers and staff and such parts of the buildings have since been partially demolished?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I am not aware.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that portion of the building materials, after the demolition had taken place, has been sold by certain officers and that report has been made against them but no action has been taken?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: My friend speaks of demolition: I am not aware of that.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there was a report that building materials were sold by the persons who were there in charge and that no action has been taken against anybody?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No, Sir.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of sending an urgent despatch to the local authority for ascertaining as to whether the demolition actually took place or not?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: If any such definite charge is made against any particular officer, of course Government will look into that.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if a definite information is given by a definite member of the Assembly that demolition did take place for a certain period and that there is a definite report against a definite officer that definite materials were sold by him and that definitely no action had been taken, what action Government propose to take in the matter?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a hypothetical question.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in view of the unsatisfactory position disclosed by his replies he will investigate into the matter and make a full statement in the House on the present position of the Homes?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Yes, Sir, Government will make a statement.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action Government proposes to take against Mr. Holland, Secretary of the Local Self-Government Department, who went out of his way to select contractors in such a manner that such a debacle has happened?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No, he was not responsible for selecting contractors. Circumstances compelled the Department to undertake the work.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Who selected the contractors?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Controller of Vagrancy.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to make further enquiry into the matter and find out whether his statement is correct?

Mr. SPEAKER: No, that is all right.

Appointment of Controller of Vagrancy, Bengal.

***24. Mr. S. A. SALIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government (Civil Defence) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the present Controller of Vagrancy under the Government of Bengal, is a retired Government servant?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state for how many years he has been appointed to the post and when his present term of office will expire?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the present Controller of Vagrancy, due to his advanced age, is not able to do as much work as is necessary for the interest and development of the new department?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of appointing a person having ability and experience in the line as the Controller of Vagrancy for this new department at the end of the term of the present incumbent?

(*e*) Is it under the contemplation of the Government to appoint a Muslim to the post of the Controller of Vagrancy after the expiry of the present term?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The post is being retained on a year to year basis along with its original incumbent. The present term is due to expire on 28th February, 1945.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) and (*e*) These will be considered at the time of making the appointment.

Deaths in Rangpur district from starvation and other diseases and prophylactic and curative measures taken by Government.

*25. **Mr. AHMED HOSSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government (Medical) Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing subdivision by subdivision in the district of Rangpur from March, 1943, to date the number of persons that died of—

(*i*) starvation,
(*ii*) cholera,
(*iii*) dysentery.
(*iv*) smallpox,
(*v*) malaria, and
(*vi*) nagasore?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what timely prophylactic and curative measures were taken by the Government and the local bodies to combat the epidemic diseases mentioned under (*a*)?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) (*ii*) to (*v*) A statement is laid on the Library Table

(*i*) and (*vi*) Figures of deaths from starvation and nagasore are not available as there is no column in the statutorily prescribed register for recording such deaths.

(*b*) Statements showing measures taken by the Government and the local bodies of Rangpur district to combat the epidemic diseases are laid on the Library Table.

Attendance of Subdivisional Officer, Tangail, at court.

*26. **Mr. AMRITA LAL MANDAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many days per month the present Subdivisional Officer, Tangail, has attended the court regularly from 1943 March to 1944 October;

(*b*) how many judgments he delivers every week; and

(*c*) what are the records of disposal of cases by his immediate predecessor per week?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Eight days in the average, the total number of days during the period being 164 days.

(*b*) Ten judgments in the average, the total number of cases disposed of during the period being 236 though this was the period during which the officer had to deal with Food Census drive, Red Cross weeks, Famine relief operations including Test Relief work, Agricultural loan distribution, Gratuitous relief, Gruel kitchens, Famine Relief Hospitals, Quinine distribution centres, etc., without any additional officers deputed for the purposes.

(*c*) Twelve.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (*a*) in view of the fact that the Subdivisional Officer could not attend for more than eight days in a month, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action was taken to prevent the litigants from being harassed for the cases fixed on other days being postponed from time to time?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There were not many postponements but some unavoidable postponements had to be made, but it must be remembered that during that time the Subdivisional Officer had to undertake a lot of touring for the purpose of giving relief and for the purpose of anti-hoarding drive and test relief works.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that besides taking up criminal matters the Subdivisional Officers have to hear appeals from Debt Settlement Board cases and also petitions regarding Rent Control Ordinance?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that there is time-limit fixed for disposal of rent control orders?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I do not know about it.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Subdivisional Officer did not sit for 22 days in a month the rent control order petitions and these Debt Settlement Board appeals had to be postponed from time to time and these rent control order petitions could not be heard within the time-limit prescribed?

Mr. SPEAKER: I disallow it. It is a hypothetical question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: No, Sir. May I make a submission. It is not hypothetical. He is not sitting for 22 days.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Not at a stretch.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether within these eight days' sitting he could dispose of all the appeals relating to Debt Settlement Board cases and all the Rent Control Order petitions?

Mr. SPEAKER: That again is a question of opinion.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that in view of the fact that the Subdivisional Officer was engaged otherwise some of the cases of the Debt Settlement Board lapsed and people have been put to difficulty?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir, that is not correct.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: In view of the admitted fact that the Subdivisional Officers have got to do vicarious work, will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of advising Government to give instructions to Subdivisional Officers not to take up those cases which may be taken up by other Magistrates and of further advising the Government that those matters which are exclusively triable by the Subdivisional Officers should be made available to other Magistrates or Judges?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is done by Government. In some subdivisions there are Additional Subdivisional Officers and in some places other officers are authorised by Government to do that work, but I must draw the attention of the honourable member that this relates to a period when a good deal of Test Relief work and Famine Relief work had to be undertaken by these officers.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Why no arrangements were made in this subdivision regard being had to the fact that the Subdivisional Officer could not be available except for special purpose?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: This extra burden on the Subdivisional Officer was put during the famine period and the question refers to that period.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Was this pressure unforeseen or the Government was aware that the pressure was in existence?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The pressure was to some extent unforeseen.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: What were the factors for this unforescen character of this pressure?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is going too far into details.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government consider the desirability of investing the Lawyer-Magistrates with these special powers of rent control and Debt Settlement Boards which have been referred to by Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu in his question?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot make any definite answer to that question of Government policy now.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any Additional Subdivisional Officer has been appointed in this subdivision which is in area and population equal to Pabna district?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No Additional Subdivisional Officer has been appointed for this subdivision.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the hardship of the litigant public and their lawyers, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to delegate these powers immediately to other Magistrates or Lawyer-Magistrates for dealing with Debt Settlement Board appeals and Rent Control Order petitions?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Again I would draw the attention of the honourable member to the fact that it relates to a period when Bengal was in the grip of famine and I refer the honourable member to my reply to (*b*) that the Subdivisional Officer had to take up work in connection with Test Relief work, Agricultural Loan, Gratuitous relief, Gruel kitchens and Famine Relief Hospitals.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell the House whether the Subdivisional Officer of Tangail is relieved now of all other work except the work as Subdivisional Officer?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir; but the pressure in connection with all these works regarding Gruel kitchens, Famine Relief Hospitals and Test Relief work is not so great now.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is still so busy that he cannot attend his court properly.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Subdivisional Officers are generally busy.

Bus accident on the Berhampore-Kaladanga route in Murshidabad district.

*27. **Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether any accident took place in respect of a bus plying between Berhampore and Kaladanga in the district of Murshidabad on 20th October, 1944 last or thereabouts resulting in the death of a passerby?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action Government propose to take in the matter?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any action was taken by the District Magistrate in the matter; and

(*ii*) if not, why not?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether his attention has been drawn to similar accidents in respect of the buses of the same company in December, 1943, and April, 1944; and

(*ii*) what action, if any, had been taken against the proprietor by the District Magistrate?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability—

(*i*) of cancelling the licence of the said proprietor; and

(*ii*) of making some other arrangements for this bus service with other company or companies?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*e*) (*i*) No.

(*c*) (*i*) Yes: A case was instituted under section 304A, Indian Penal Code, and after proper investigation supervised by the Superintendent of Police himself, it was found that the accident had been caused by the rash movements of the passersby. The driver took all possible precautions to avoid the accident.

(*ii*) and (*e*) (*ii*) Do not arise.

(*d*) (*i*) Accidents did occur in those months.

(*ii*) No action was taken against the proprietor as he was not to blame

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that even during the last ten days another death has taken place in the same Line?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the vehicles which are used in this line as in other lines have gone out of order and that is one of the reasons why such accidents take place because the drivers cannot play the brake?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir; in so far as these two cases referred to by the honourable member putting the question are concerned, they were not due to any defect in the motor vehicles.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Has the Hon'ble Minister any report in his possession showing that the vehicles were examined and that they were found to be in order?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, I have got the report in my possession.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is it a fact that an application was sent to the District Magistrate stating that the police were siding with the bus owner and that proper examination of the vehicles was not made and that the District Magistrate wanted the Superintendent of Police to make a personal examination of the vehicles and that was not done?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No; that is not correct. I have the report of the Superintendent of Police with me in the file. The Superintendent of Police himself tested the bus and found that there was no defect.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Who is the Superintendent of Police?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Lewis.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Superintendent of Police examined this vehicle at least ten days after the accident had taken place?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He examined the bus on the 23rd May, 1944.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: What was the date of the accident?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: In April 1944.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: So the difference between the date of the accident and the date of examination by Superintendent of Police is at least more than a month!

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot argue like that.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the report of the District Magistrate in this matter?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the police investigation of this accident which was on the 20th October was completed within 24 hours?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: My information is that the date of accident was at 16·30 hours on 22nd October, at village Fulberia.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: And the investigation was completed with indecent haste, *i.e.*, within 24 hours of the accident!

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know when the investigation was completed

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is it not a fact that some of the passengers sent a written application to the District Magistrate offering their own evidence in order to prove that there was negligence on the part of the bus driver and that evidence was not taken on the ground that the investigation had been completed and final report given?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, I have no such information.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is it not a fact that the accident related to two women, one of whom was dead and the other survived and is it not a fact that the surviving woman was examined on the place of accident and that she gave one statement and that subsequently another statement was obtained from her by payment of money in the presence of a police officer? These are matters of record.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: My information is that the accident took place on the 22nd October on the Berhampore-Kaladanga route near Fulberia village 9 miles east of Berhampore where an old woman was knocked down and the police instituted a case under section 304A, I.P.C., and after proper investigation which was supervised by the Superintendent of Police himself it was found that the pedestrian herself was responsible for the accident and that there were many respectable people who testified to the fact that the driver was not at all responsible.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that the two women were waiting on the roadside?

Mr. SPEAKER: You are giving information.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: No, Sir. I am eliciting information.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please put your question properly.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that when these two women were waiting on the roadside and one of them was with fever——

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not relevant.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware there is a written information on record which was sent to the District Magistrate by some of the passengers saying that the two women were waiting on the roadside and the driver who obtained a licence only recently bungled in the matter and he ran over one of the women who died on the spot and on the roadside and not in the middle of the road?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. The information of Government is that the accident was caused by the negligence on the part of the passerby herself and several respectable persons who were travelling in the same bus have testified to the fact that the bus driver was not at all responsible and was not negligent in any way.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the nature of information regarding the negligence of the dead woman?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: She suddenly came in front of the bus.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there is information on record given by respectable persons including members of the District Board who have definitely stated in writing that these women were waiting on the roadside?

Mr. SPEAKER: The question does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the complaints the allegations were that these two women were waiting on the roadside, one was with fever, and while waiting was run over by the bus?

Mr. SPEAKER: That was the very question put by Mr. Sanyal.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I want to know whether there was any allegation to that effect.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have no information as to what was the allegation in the original petition of complaint.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the further fact that there was a written report to the District Magistrate that the Superintendent of Police's opinion should not be accepted because he habitually gets his own old car repaired by the owner of this Bus Service?

Mr. SPEAKER: You ought to have asked first if there was any report like that.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister further aware that at a meeting of the District Transport Authority this particular matter, namely, road accidents and deaths, came up for discussion and it was the unanimous decision of all the members official and non-official

including the District Magistrate and Chairman of the Murshidabad Municipality who is a member of this House belonging to the Government party that all these accidents were due to the fact that this owner was enjoying a monopoly service and that another owner should be put, so that there might be healthy competition and the buses would be put in order? The only dissentient voice was that of the Superintendent of Police who did not come to the meeting but sent a written note that the number of deaths was not sufficient to justify a disturbance of the present state of things?

Khan BAHADUR MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of the proceedings of the Regional Transport Authority meeting.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer just now given that he has not got the complaint in his possession, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to look into the complaint itself and find out what were the actual allegations and enquire into the matter?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have got the report of the District Magistrate, the Superintendent of Police and the Sub-Inspector of Police who conducted the investigation.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the local Superintendent of Police and officials of the Police Department often use this owner's Bus Service and taxis owned by him (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Daily the Subdivisional Officer, Superintendent of Police and others use them) free of cost?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of that.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in view of the allegations made in the question, he would consider the desirability of forwarding these questions and answers to the District Magistrate for such opinion as he may offer?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is not necessary.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question time is over.

Adjournment motion of Mr. Sibnath Banerjee.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Before you proceed with the other business of today, may I draw your attention to the fact that Mr. Sib Nath Banerjee, an esteemed colleague of ours, sent an adjournment motion to you regarding the hunger-strike of Mr. Sachindra Nath Sen as a protest against the callousness on the part of Government in the matter of treatment of certain political prisoners who were suffering from tuberculosis:—

Babu Aswini Kumar Gupta,
Babu Sudhir Kumar Dutt,
Babu Syamananda Sen,
Babu Parimal Dutt,
Babu Bhupendra Rakhit Roy and
Miss Kamala Das Gupta.

May we know when, if at all, you gave your consent, how it was dealt with by your Department, when and how it was taken by the Department and how the matter now stands?

Mr. SPEAKER: I will look into the matter.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

General Discussion of the Budget.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra Goswami, our Minister in charge of Finance, has been true to his own

tradition in presenting the Bengal budget for 1945-46. As in his personal life, so also in his career as Finance Minister of the Province, he gives evidence of unabashed recklessness and prodigality, unparallelled self-deception and self-complacence and unpardonable miscalculations and humbug. In less than two years of the regime of the present Ministry, Bengal has been laid prostrate under unprecedented burdens of man-made famine and natural calamity and the measures so far taken by Government have in most cases only added to the miseries of the people. Far from tackling the problems with an imaginative and comprehensive policy and foresight, such measures have led rather to a completion of the picture of desolation and helplessness. The budget for 1945-46 makes a dismal study and in spite of soaring figures in crores and crores instead of thousands to which we were ordinarily used, cannot but leave a sad feeling of doom and dark days ahead of Bengal not merely for the present generation but for generations to come.

A study of the financial position of the province from 1937-38 when the present legislature under the new Constitution began its functions to the budget of 1945-46 reveals that although the people were fleeced to contribute to revenue receipts as much as Rs. 29 crores in the budget estimates of 1945-46 and Rs. 36 crores in the revised estimates of the current year from a total of only Rs. 13 crores in 1937-38 the revenue expenses were recklessly provided for so as to leave a deficit in the revenue account only of Rs. 11,35 lakhs in 1944-45 and Rs. 8,59 lakhs in 1945-46 as against a revenue surplus of Rs. 1,18 lakhs in 1937-38. It also shows that by the end of 1945-46 Bengal will get saddled with a total indebtedness of Rs. 106 crores exclusive of the obligations due to various deposits, with some problematic assets valued at little above Rs. 86 crores leaving a net uncovered debt of more than Rs. 19 crores. Out of the above total debt of Rs. 106 crores, the loans from the Central Government alone, apart from grants and subventions under various heads, will amount to nearly Rs. 35½ crores and the obligations for payment of interest alone on the debts will require in 1945-46 more than Rs. 113·4 lakhs as compared with the credit earning of Rs. 7·4 lakhs in 1937-38. The Hon'ble Finance Minister seeks to plead his helplessness in view of the demand for the formidable sum of Rs. 61 crores in three years 1943-44 to 1945-46 to meet the expenditure necessitated by war conditions and famine and its aftermath. But apart from a bald statement showing the loss on the purchase of food grains alone as reaching the appalling figure of Rs. 22½ crores during the same period of three years, no attempt is made to explain how far this loss was foreseen and really could have been avoided. Nor is an honest endeavour made to show how much further loss has to be written off on account of deterioration in and damage caused to the stocks of foodgrains, salt, sugar, cloth and last but not least of country boats valued presumably at cost at nearly Rs. 86½ crores in the total and calculated as assets against the borrowings of the province. Heavy losses in valuable foodstuffs due to decomposition while in Government storage have been disclosed already and reports about the same constantly pour in. Losses on account of haphazard and illconceived methods of construction of country boats through a shameless policy of distribution of patronage and corruption are also not likely to be inconsiderable. If these are properly assessed and honestly owned up, the net uncovered amount of indebtedness of the province at the end of 1945-46 will not stand at any figure lower than Rs. 30 crores on a very modest calculation. It is idle to expect that the Government of India will come to our aid in relieving our finances to any substantial extent. In this view I was convinced at a conference that I had recently attended in New Delhi where I could know the mind of Sir Jeremy Raisman, the present Finance Member of the Government of India.

While the financial position of Bengal's exchequer remains so gloomy without the slightest sign of any silver lining in the clouds, recklessness

and extravagance in the provision of funds, specially for meeting temporary and short-lived problems, know no limits to the utter neglect of many nation-building departments and beneficent long-standing and enduring projects.

Thus, while on the background of increased revenue receipts from Rs. 23-72 lakhs in 1943-44 to Rs. 28,79 lakhs in 1945-46 General Education and Co-operation get their allotments increased from Rs. 1,80 lakhs to Rs. 2,64 lakhs and from Rs. 16·6 lakhs to Rs. 19·1 lakhs only and civil works actually get a reduced provision of Rs. 1,28 lakhs from Rs. 1,39 lakhs. General Administration obtains Rs. 2,20 lakhs in 1945-46 against Rs. 1,68 lakhs in 1943-44 and Rs. 1,30 lakhs in 1937-38, Police is provided with Rs. 3,40 lakhs in 1945-46 against Rs. 3,02 lakhs in 1943-44 and Rs. 2,24 lakhs only in 1937-38 and Extraordinary Charges in India comprising Civil Defence, Civil Supplies and such other temporary departments accounts for Rs. 10,23 lakhs in 1945-46, Rs. 18,40 lakhs in 1944-45 and Rs. 6,04 lakhs in 1943-44. It is true that Agriculture, Medical, Irrigation, and Public Health have received increased attention more than in the past and larger provisions have been made, but an examination of the schemes, the details whereof have not been revealed so far, will only enable the House to judge how far these are likely really to be of any permanent benefit to the people and how far they are merely of a transient character calculated to stave off immediate difficulties.

While dealing with the presentation of the Budget generally we cannot but too strongly condemn the tendency noticed during the last two to three years to keep back from the legislature many projects involving large sums of money at a reasonably early stage and the practice of providing heavy amounts in the post-budget period in a year through administrative or executive sanction only to be regularised either by appropriation within the grants or through a belated presentation of a supplementary budget towards the end of the financial year, when the expenses have been already incurred. Such a procedure encroaches upon the very elementary rights of the Assembly to vote supplies and strikes at the very root of democratic and popular Government. We cannot also help feeling unhappy over the changes in the form of the Civil Estimates and particularly of the Red Book in the name of paper economy particularly because the variations in the budget provisions compared to previous years as also the provisions in respect of the more important items under each head are not shown in greater detail as was done formerly to assist the members.

We also feel that Government have not been fair to the Assembly in calling upon us to examine the coming year's budget before disposing of the supplementary budget for the current year. Government appear to move with the cart before the horse and take many things for granted. This would hardly be tolerated by any democratic legislature with some degree of self-respect. While introducing the current year's budget last year the Hon'ble Mr. T. C. Goswami, with some sense of guilt still left in him at that time pleaded that in view of the extraordinary nature of the demands made on the provincial finances he had often to ignore many canons of finance hitherto considered as sacred. Since then the present Ministry has shaken off all sense of shame and decency in the reckless handling of funds under the garb of dealing with emergent situation but really with a view to selfish ends of patronage and party politics. In these nefarious games the situation created through the war and the famine has become handy and has opened out many new opportunities.

It is an open secret that the bungling of the food situation was largely caused through an unholy attempt to distribute patronage on party considerations. It is equally well known throughout the length and breadth of the province that in almost every sphere of governmental activity the present Ministry is impelled to take action only on party consideration or

for personal and party gains. A few weeks ago it was revealed through an answer to a question that all nominations to local bodies were subject to scrutiny by the Chief Whip of Government and it was reported in a section of the Press that even in the matter of appointments, postings and transfers in some of the departments of Government the sinister hand of the Chief Government Whip plays an important role. This corrupt practice has gone so far as to embolden the supporters of Government to defy law and indulge in anti-social activities with impunity and has polluted every section of the administration. The fair name of Bengal as a consequence has been totally darkened and Bengal Administration has become a bye-word for bribery, corruption and inefficiency in other parts of India. Time and a sense of decency do not permit me to cite some of the specific instances of governmental corrupt practice which I have got in my possession but any one desirous of getting specific instances will, I am sure, be able, with a little intelligence, to find some instances out if he watches the activities of the Civil Supplies Department in its various sections, particularly in the Textiles, Movements and Boat-Construction Sections as also in the Communications and Works Department. My friends might be feeling unhappy for my mentioning Bengal alone in this connection as encouraging corruption. Sir, while speaking in the Bengal Legislative Assembly I make a special plea for Bengal because I love my province most and I want Bengal and the Bengalees to stand up as an example for any other province. I have got in my possession an instance in which one of the highest officers of the Government of India appears to have taken to corrupt practices. I have got a report that the Department of Civil Supplies of the Government of India contemplates the opening of certain model shops for selling stationery goods at controlled prices. Several shops were under scrutiny and examination and then all of a sudden I got the report that the Controller-General of Civil Supplies, Government of India, one Mr. Desai, had selected a shop at 55, Canning Street, of the name of Messrs. C. Shamabhai & Co., partners of which are Messrs. Shamabhai and Chandubhai Patel which was established in April, 1943, and were dealing in tea alone. I went there to see the nature of the shop and there was no stationery shop at all, and they said that they were going to open the stationery section of their tea shop from 1st March next. I invite the members of the European party and others to go there and see the place and satisfy themselves how Mr. Sobhan's department is going to select or accept the selection of this shop as a model shop. This shop was selected by Mr. Desai evidently because Mr. Shamabhai comes from the same province as Mr. Desai himself. It is not that I intend to invite the attention of honourable members to corruption in Bengal alone; there is corruption everywhere. But when I went to different parts of India everywhere the talk was that we are corrupt and I want this House to realise all that it means. I want every section of the House to see that the fair name of Bengal may be restored and re-established untarnished. The malpractices encouraged or connived at by the higher authorities have spoilt almost every section of the officials—high and low—and the greatest disaster that has happened to this province is the thorough breakdown of the moral backbone of the services and the Ministry.

While Bengal is groaning under poverty, malnutrition, famine, and epidemics and while many a beneficent scheme had to be postponed and abandoned for want of funds or encouragement by Government the Ministry has sought to keep itself in power through a liberal pampering of the members of the Legislature—especially of the Government party members. While officers under the Crown have been granted dearness allowances of 10 per cent. to 15 per cent. only the Assembly and Council Members' salaries and allowances have been sought to be enhanced by 33 per cent. and 25 per cent. and that too with retrospective effect. In addition to such emoluments a large number of Government's supporters in the districts have

been given various contracts either in the construction of boats or in the distribution of cloth, yarn, salt, sugar and other essentials or in setting up so-called rehabilitation and relief centres whose accounts are hardly ever submitted properly or scrutinised. It is no wonder that these watch-dogs of public interests in their turn will wink at the all-India tours of the Moslem League members in the Ministerial high command at public expense or at the provision of a special residence for the Premier of Bengal shifting the Commissioner of the Presidency Division to a house reported to have been purchased by a stalwart of the Moslem League, even at such a time when, apart from dire financial stringency, it is difficult to secure even a bag of cement or a cubic foot of timber or a pound of steel for setting in order flood and cyclone affected rural schools and hospitals.

To cover up all the sins of corruption and patronage and to boost the activities of the Ministerial coterie the Publicity Department of the Government has been reorganised last year involving the setting up of an elaborate publicity machinery, almost a parallel Government at enormous cost—six to nine lakhs of rupees per year—and this commitment has been made during the last post-budget period over the heads of the Legislature. In addition to this measures have been and are being taken up to keep "big business", particularly the European interests, satisfied and undisturbed through unholy pacts regarding the maintenance of maximum prices of jute, liberal commission for work done by big business as agents of Government without calling for tenders and without attempting to ascertain the lowest cost at which such work could be secured, postponing nationalisation of public utility concerns like electricity and tramways and last but not the least by occasional appointments of non-official European businessmen to hold high offices over the heads of experienced and more dependable civil servants or Indian non-officials. Yet another eye-wash is the appointment of so-called experts—mainly foreign—and the invariable extension of the services of all superannuated European officers.

In introducing the Budget the Hon'ble Mr. Goswami has taken pride in securing the services of Mr. L. K. Elmhirst as our Agricultural Adviser. We congratulate him on this achievement if the credit is really due to him, but we are yet to see how far Mr. Elmhirst will be in a position to give a new turn to the course of events in the Government of Bengal. He laughs best who laughs last.

Similar pride has been taken in securing the co-operation of Professor P. C. Mahalanobis in connection with the preparation of Crop Statistics and setting up of the Provincial Statistical Bureau. I have great respect for the Indian Statistical Institute and I wish Government well in their endeavour to secure the help of that institution in connection with statistical investigations. But I must here warn Government against too much optimism. May we know where the made-to-order statistics of rice production in Bengal which Professor Mahalanobis produced after securing a grant of about Rs. 3 lakhs in 1943-44, now stands, on the basis of which Government declared sufficiency of food production in 1943-44? May I also enquire what has happened to the note prepared by the Statistician attached to the Director of Civil Supplies' own office who criticized the note of Professor Mahalanobis and pointed out that it was merely a paraphrase of the Department of Agriculture's statistics, investigations and results? Have the Government obtained the details of procedure adopted in the collection of primary data through "random sampling" in course of that statistical enquiry and have they obtained the accounts? So far as those accounts are concerned, I have heard very unhappy reports about Professor Mahalanobis's affairs. I would ask Government to make proper investigations into the money handed over to him—how he spends that amount, whether any of his houses are being built out of the same or not.

Pride has also been taken in the proposed Government Cattle-breeding Centre in the Nadia district. It is reported in this connection that in the thanas of Chakdaha and Haringhata in the Nadia district and Amdanga in the 24-Parganas district about 8 to 10 miles east of Kanchrapara, nearly 40 villages are threatened with peremptory evacuation of the poor cultivators and tenants, many of whom have been evacuees from the militarily acquired areas to the west and north of Kanchrapara. Before we can give our blessings to this proposed Cattle-breeding Station, we want to be convinced that no unnecessary hardship is caused to the poor cultivators and tenants of the area and that proper arrangements are made either to absorb them in the cattle farming work or to get them settled in a suitable area outside the proposed station on payment of adequate compensation. Let us not create more destitutes by governmental action in 1945.

Another post-budget decision, namely, the appointment of the Bengal Administration Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Archibald Rowlands, involving an expenditure of more than a lakh of rupees already, has been trumpeted as a great achievement. Here also I would ask the House to hold its opinion in patience for some time more. Such Committees have invariably been appointed in the past mainly to strengthen the steel-frame on the eve of any constitutional advance and the questionnaire that this Committee has sent out to certain persons reveals the same mentality of how to strengthen the steel-frame and how to get them out of the bounds or interferance, as they allege, of the democratic Legislature and the Ministry.

The clandestine alliance that the Hon'ble Mr. Goswami entered into with some desperate power-seekers in 1943 has had the first illicit issue of the famine under the tune of the European band party and such unholy connection can only further breed devastation, epidemics and debilitation. Mr. Goswami and his colleagues have only to thank themselves for this achievement and no excuse in the name of war or unforeseen events will wipe off from their hands the guilt of accentuating, if not actually creating, the famine of 1943-44 that swept away more than 30 lakhs of our population. Posterity also will not spare, I hope, the regime that is saddling Bengal with burdens of taxation and debts which will make it difficult, if not impossible, for Bengal to win her rightful place in India and the world.

Bengal lies prostrate and her people are calling out piteously for help. They badly need food and nourishment. Our motherhood and sisters are hardly able to get a piece of cloth to cover their shame. The children require milk and nutrition. The sick are crying for medicines. Epidemics, smallpox and cholera are now stalking the land. A new menace in the form of atrocities to the civil population by members of the military personnel is fast developing unchecked. Men, women and children are dishonoured in their houses and streets and callously being run over by "special types of lorries" in the streets of Calcutta and suburbs and not being satisfied with all these, the Governor of Bengal has recently started a campaign to collect the young women of the province for an alleged work to relieve the military hands in certain offices under the organisation called W.A.C.(I). Sir, so far as we are aware, there is enough unemployment amongst young men in Bengal still and we cannot conceive of the special work the girls of Bengal can do that these boys would not be able to perform and why is it necessary to send out special invitations through Principals who do not know that their names were associated to tea parties and dances and festivals to collect these young girls together and to convince them of the utility of joining this W.A.C.(I) movement. Surely the emoluments that are proposed to be given to the girls and the very comfortable housing and other amenities that are proposed to be given would attract hundreds of young men still available and unemployee. If the work to be done is of such a nature as is proposed to be done, then I am sure women could be spared and there are enough unemployed young men in Bengal still to

take up the job. Sir, presumably there is some other motive behind it which I would not like to go into. The situation amounts to a great national calamity and calls for national handling.

Sir, I would not like to detain the House longer. We find that in the background we have got the flowers of our society beginning from our respected countryman Sarat Chandra Bose and several other members of the Legislature and hundreds of workers still detained without trial. Civil liberties had been trampled and still continue to be trampled recklessly in various parts of the province. Although Japan has been fairly well defeated and a large part of Burma has, as is alleged, been cleared of the Japanese menace, still these unfortunate members of our House and valuable members of society are rotting in jail. We demand that they be released forthwith. We further demand that the Government do make sincere and honest attempt to set up a national council for handling the problems of rehabilitation and relief. We demand that the situation calls for an all-out effort to rebuild Bengal. I have been calling on every section, Sir, to join their hands together to build Bengal. I appeal to the House through you, Sir, that the atmosphere in the budget session be so created that we can work together with the common purpose of building Bengal and of claiming for Bengal the rightful place that is hers.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH SEN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in presenting the budget for 1945-46 Bengal's Finance Minister has attempted to cheer up the drooping spirit of 60 millions of Bengalees who are weighed down under poverty and hunger, misery and degradation. The Hon'ble Mr. T. C. Goswami was at one time a student at Oxford and must have, therefore, a keen admiration for one of England's ablest statesmen, Mr. Gladstone. It is said of Mr. Gladstone that he could tune music into figures. The Hon'ble Mr. Goswami must have tried to emulate that distinguished statesman while presenting his budget before the Bengal Legislature the other day. Perhaps he has been a victim of his own delusion or of self-complacency. Being comfortably placed in the ministerial guddy he could not perhaps realise that the picture as presented by him meant a grim story that depresses the hearts of his fellow countrymen. The revenue deficits have risen to staggering figures. In 1943-44 the deficit exceeded Rs. 3 crores in spite of the subvention of an equal amount from the Centre. In the current year the deficit is expected to come up to Rs. 11 crores although the Government of India have made subvention of Rs. 7 crores. The estimates for 1945-46 place this deficit at Rs. 8 crores. The Finance Minister could not however tell the House whether the Government of India would come to the aid of the province in the next year too. In the current year the revised estimates show the revenue receipts at Rs. 36 crores, i.e., Rs. 14 crores higher than the budget figure. If the expenditure on account of the conditions arising out of the war and the famine, which amounts to Rs. 29 crores, is taken out of the picture, the total expenditure on all other accounts comes up to Rs. 18 crores. In the next year if the expenditure on account of the abnormal conditions of war and famine amounting to Rs. 18 crores is not taken into account, the total normal budget would be something like Rs. 19 crores. These sums are practically 1½ times the normal budget of the province in pre-autonomy days. It is, therefore, only natural for the people to enquire whether while they are paying more taxes, the Government are rendering services in a *quid pro quo* basis. The uncovered debt position of the province is also becoming increasingly serious inasmuch as the amount would stand at over Rs. 19 crores at the end of 1945-46. These figures indicate a bleak and dreary future for the province. The picture is a grim one. The Finance Minister has no doubt attempted to link his leaky boat of finance with the plans of reconstruction and programme of rehabilitation so rosily drawn before the House. But in spite of his attempts at embellishments he could not hide the grimness of the picture. In usual course the demands for grants will be made and

with a subservient legislature the Ministry will not have to encounter much difficulty in getting them sanctioned. But does the smooth passage of the Budget ensure its quality? Does this signify that all is well with the people of the province and nothing is wrong with its finances? A dispassionate and critical study of the Budget would however tell a different story.

Even if it is assumed that there has been no jugglery in figures the amount of losses on the trading operations of the Government has been staggering. The original estimates provided for a loss of Rs. 3¼ crores in 1943-44 and of Rs. 5 crores in 1944-45, *i.e.*, a total of Rs. 8¼ crores over the two years. But the present estimates place the total of such losses at nearly Rs. 17 crores for the same period, *i.e.*, Rs. 8½ crores over and above the estimates originally made by the Government. When the Government made their original estimates they must have based their calculation on the losses that would accrue as a result of the difference between their purchase prices and prices at which these goods were sold to the public. They must have made out a schedule in advance. Their calculation also must have included a certain percentage on account of losses due to deterioration in stocks. Moreover, in the year 1943 when the famine was at its acutest, there had been causes for such losses. But in the year 1944 when even according to the Government there was no famine, and the Government had got a grip over the entire foodgrains trade in the province, including their procurement at prices below the ceilings fixed by them and their sales to the public at certain fixed prices, the basis could not have far exceeded the estimated sum. The ceiling prices of rice in 1944 ranged between Rs. 14 and Rs. 16 while the Government were actually able to purchase rice at about Rs. 12 in certain districts. At the same time the Government selling prices ranged between Rs. 15 and Rs. 16. It is, therefore, not understandable how the Government could have incurred such huge losses unless these were occasioned by damaged stocks. Thus it will be seen that huge quantities of foodgrains had to be either destroyed or sold at very low prices for non-edible purposes, resulting in a total loss to the extent of Rs. 8½ crores. In spite of repeated requests by the public and also the members of this House the Government have been maintaining a stolid silence over information relating to the actual quantities of foodgrains that had to be destroyed or sold out as cattle food or fertiliser, due to deterioration in quality. Then figures would however suggest that something like 1 crore maunds of foodgrains had had to be thus disposed of by the Government during the last two years. This has been largely the result of governmental inefficiency and bungling in managing the affairs. Nothing could be more deplorable than that so much of foodgrains were denied to the people at a time when men in thousands were dying for want of a morsel of food. In the coming year the loss on account of trading operations of the Government has been placed at Rs. 5¼ crores. But I fail to understand how such a loss could at all occur when the Government are purchasing rice at a price ranging between Rs. 10 and Rs. 12 and selling the same to the people at over Rs. 14 or Rs. 16 thus retaining to themselves a clear margin of Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 per maund as gross profit. We have yet to know that the Government have been selling rice at anything like Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 per maund anywhere in the province, for the benefit of the poorer sections of the community. The reason for such a huge loss has therefore to be sought elsewhere. Either the Government have carried forward the loss from the current year or they have not even now learnt by the bitter experience of the recent past. In a statement of indebtedness of the province appended to the speech of the Finance Minister, it has been shown that the value of stocks of foodgrains other than wheat now standing at Rs. 47 crores at the end of 1944-45 would mount up to over Rs. 64 crores at the end of the next year. This would happen in spite of the fact that the Government stocks would fall in value as a result of further reduction

in sale prices in order to accelerate the offtake by the people and also to prevent deterioration through long storage and to release sufficient storage spaces for the new crop. The quantity in the hands of the Government would therefore be practically double than what they now possess. In recent months there has been an improvement in the war situation. The eastern theatre of war has been pushed far into the heart of Burma. It is quite probable that the war will terminate soon. The reconquest of Burma also holds out the hope for an improved food situation. When we have left behind the dark days of 1943 and conditions are again tending towards normal, it is really surprising that the Government should have been acting in the opposite direction and is trying, so to say, to move against tide. Instead of gradually restoring normal channels of trade, they are seeking to make further inroads into the trading activities of the people thereby ousting them from their normal avocations. A time will surely arrive when the Government will have to face the problem of disposal of such huge stocks of foodgrains, and when the people will have little urge to buy from the Government stocks. It saddens one to think of the amount of losses which the Government will incur at that stage—losses which are bound to throw the provincial finance into the melting pot of rack and ruin.

Next to food, clothing is a basic necessity of life. The situation in respect of cloth supply in Bengal is equally bad like that of food. Just as there had been food famine in 1943, signs are not wanting that there will be a cloth famine in the province in no time unless determined efforts are made by the administration to improve the situation. That Bengal's quota of cotton cloth is hardly adequate goes without saying. While provinces like Bombay and Punjab could persuade the Central Government to allocate their quotas on the basis of a higher yardage of cotton cloth per head, the failure of the Bengal Government to secure quota on an equivalent basis is only a reflection on their efficiency and earnestness. The system of distribution also leaves much to be desired. While many of the normal traders in the textile business have been thrown overboard, the selection of untried businessmen for distribution can hardly be regarded as a compliment to the Government. Whether in Calcutta or in mufassal it is only with extreme difficulty that one can procure a pair of *dhooti* or *saree* now-a-days, and even that at a price much above the tex-marked retail price. Unless things are mended now, the cloth situation in the province is threatening to become scandalous like food famine of 1943.

Mr. Goswami has tried to bamboozle the public by making a flourish of his plan of reconstruction and programmes for rehabilitation. He has waxed eloquent over the series of measures that are being tried to be implemented by a hard working administrative machinery. He has said that the real bottleneck to the nation-building activities is not finance but trained personnel. One of the reasons for this lack of staff not competent enough to carry on the work of administration in these difficult days is to be found in the methods of recruitment to Government services which are being used by the Ministry that be as an instrument of party politics designed to keep themselves intact in power by distribution of patronage. It certainly ill behoves the Government now to lament over the lack of competent men. It has also been said that an enquiry committee with Sir Archibald Rowlands, the Finance Member Designate to the Government of India, has been investigating with a view to renovate Bengal's administrative machinery. Mr. Goswami has therefore expatiated the need for finding experts and more experts, mostly imported staff. It is a poor compliment to the manhood of this province that the Government had to go as far as New Zealand to import an expert in dairy and poultry farming. But the conditions in Bengal vary so widely from those obtaining in countries from which these experts have been imported that it is extremely doubtful whether any useful result will materialise therefrom.

We are not certain when this business of importing experts will stop and the real work of nation-building and rehabilitation will begin in right earnest.

Although no new measure of taxation has been proposed, the Government are however considering possibilities of augmenting revenue by new imposts. We have been assured that Bengal's complete "case" has been placed before the Central Government by the Finance Minister and His Excellency the Governor. The Government of India may share the trading losses with the Bengal Government or may give some doles for the rehabilitation of this war-torn province. But to expect that the foundations of the Niemyer Award will be adjusted to ensure a more satisfactory settlement even in the midst of war is either to delude oneself or to hoodwink the public. These are questions vitally affecting the Indian Constitution and are therefore not likely to be taken up now by His Majesty's Government. This apart, it is immaterial to the House that the Finance Minister had the support of His Excellency the Governor in placing the case of the province before the Centre. He must not have dragged the sacred name of the Governor to prop up his own defence. But the Finance Minister has considered it necessary, perhaps prudent, to keep back from the House the entire brief which he prepared on behalf of Bengal. Or, is it due to the fact that the Finance Minister has supplicated for an *ex gratia* grant from the Centre? The House has the right to know the exchange of notes that has passed between the Bengal Government and the Government of India.

The Finance Minister has prided that there has been no famine in 1944 due to careful planning and the effective execution of the threefold programme of production, procurement and distribution of food. But whatever little achievement has been made, the credit can hardly be claimed by the Bengal Govenrment and should in all fairness go to the Centre. Even now the price of rice is three times more than what it had been before the war. Even today there are thousands of families who live on the verge of starvation. If the rise in the price of rice has been kept in check, those of vegetables and fish, milk and oils, have been skyrocketting to such levels as are beyond the reach of the common man "Grow More Food" campaign has helped to swell the Budget but how far it will swell the actual supplies in the market still remains an unknown quantity. Even now men and women are dying in thousands for want of food. Diseases in epidemic form are raging throughout the province. Destitutes are roaming in thousands. Women are selling their honour for a morsel of food. There can be no surer indictment of the failure of the Government to tackle the situation, especially as, when according to their own admission, the finance is not the bottleneck. I am, therefore, constrained to observe that even given the requisite trained personnel, the present Ministry, deriving as they do their sustenance from communalism, cannot rise above petty and sectional considerations and shape their plan and policy on an appreciation of the larger needs of the province. In an abnormal time like the present no Party Government can rise equal to the task and lead on the province in its upward march of progress. It is only a Ministry based on the willing support and co-operation of all the parties that the province sorely needs at this hour of her trials and tribulations.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, I shall make only a few observations and make some specific suggestions. Any student of economics would tell you that "deficit budgets have inflationary effects while surplus budgets have deflationary effects". According to all sound canons of public finance therefore deliberate and definite attempts should be made to have surplus budgets during periods of inflation and deficit budgets during periods of

deflation. The Bengal Government however is following just the opposite policy. Rupees twenty-three crores of budget deficit during three years of inflation is more than a cruel joke, when we remember that during these years there was a huge windfall increase in Bengal's revenue from various sources—Central subventions, share of income-tax, excise, etc. Had the Government expenditure been well planned, prudent and on productive lines there would never have been such huge deficits. In many directions there has been reckless expenditure. Much of the deficit in the Civil Supplies and Communications and Works Departments is due, I say deliberately, to dishonesty. In some departments what had been essentially non-productive expenditure could have been easily converted into productive expenditure if planned with a little more imagination and public spirit. In the matter of relief and rehabilitation, Congress workers who have followed the Gandhian principle of "help through work" have been able to show infinitely better results per rupee spent than the Government subsidised organisations which give so-called gratuitous relief.

Next, I shall say something about the tax system. The tax system in Bengal is becoming progressively more and more regressive and the poor man has to bear a more than proportionate burden of taxes than the rich man The employment and sales taxes are particularly objectionable from this standpoint and should be removed now that the provincial receipts from income-tax have been increased substantially. However, it is very unfortunate that no serious attempts have been made to squeeze the war profiteers and grab-takers. Apart from taking vigorous steps to penalise these people, Government should seriously consider in collaboration with the Central Government whether the time has not come to impose a capital levy on all war wealth. Our nation-building works can be satisfactorily carried on only if such a levy is imposed before war time inflation is over. For this purpose and for the purpose of checking bribery and profiteering, Government should immediately start collecting information about all forms of war wealth. A register should be kept of all big transactions in gold bullions and higher denominational currency notes and the latter should be required to be re-endorsed once every year. In addition, the information collected by the police, Land Revenue, Income-tax as well as Excise, Supply and Works Departments should be pooled together and utilised by a central organisation for the purpose of effective control.

Having made these general observations, I will now come to some specific points referred to by the Hon'ble Finance Minister. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has given a formidable list of so-called achievements during his regime. First of all, he makes the bragging statement that the Government have been able to redeem their pledge, viz., "there shall be no famine in 1944". Facts however are to the contrary. If the Hon'ble Finance Minister will look up the figures supplied by Mr. Tyson, Secretary to the Government of India, recently in the Central Legislature about mortality, he will find that he (the Finance Minister) has made a wrong statement. From Mr. Tyson's figures we find that the number of monthly deaths in 1944 was almost the same as in 1943. There may not have been many deaths from starvation directly but an unusually large number of deaths from diseases was primarily due to under-nourishment. There was famine in 1944—I say that in spite of the Hon'ble Finance Minister's statement—and the complacence of the Hon'ble Finance Minister in this respect is almost criminal. The Hon'ble Finance Minister next refers to the bottleneck of personnel to which reference has been made by my honourable friend Mr. D. N. Sen. In this connection may we ask what have the Government done in this respect to tap the indigenous sources? There are and were at that time many able men amongst school teachers and college teachers whose services could well be utilised in this direction. He surely realises that this work could have been done by them at much

less costs than has been done by the foreign machinery, and he must also admit that school teachers and college teachers being indigenous can be more easily acclamatised to the work than foreign experts imported from abroad.

Then he refers to the "Grow More Food" campaign. Well, we have referred to the subject on several occasions in the past and one question that I would like to put to the Hon'ble the Finance Minister is this: Do the Government imagine that food is grown in this country in urban areas by English knowing people? Otherwise, why are these foolish varieties of publicity carried on by them? Is anything being done to ensure that useful information really reaches the true tiller of the soil in an intelligible and attractive form?

Referring to the huge loss of 22½ crores on Civil Supplies account I feel tempted to say that the Civil Supplies Department has not the competence and honesty of even an ordinary trader because in the appointment of officials nepotism has greater consideration than business efficiency.

The Hon'ble Finance Minister has referred to what he calls an industrial achievement in the province. May I ask what has been done for financing and developing cottage industries and for marketing their products? Nothing, I say, except appointing a few officials who try to justify their existence by presenting already existing industries as their own creation.

Referring to Irrigation I should say that irrigation in Bengal is the worst in India; yet it is known that it is a work which improves not only agriculture but also communications and public health. Nothing is being done to renovate the canals and tanks in Eastern Bengal. Much has been said about road planning but surely canal planning is no less important than road planning. The Hon'ble Finance Minister has said nice things about the post-war planning. We know there has been a committee on Post-War Planning, but we do not know what are the achievements of this Committee so far. But may I venture to suggest that in any Post-War Planning the main working lines should be towards decentralisation, rural development and cottage industrialisation. The main plank of work should be the development of rural communication, provision of cheap electric power in rural areas, improvement of agriculture and agricultural finance and marketing of agricultural products. The village school, I suggest, should be developed on sound lines and made the centre of rural development, cultural as well as economical. I would also suggest that a Public Accounts Committee, not of the type we have in this House but a Public Accounts Committee of experienced and expert auditors should be set up to examine thoroughly the accounts of the Civil Supplies, and Communications and Works, and the list of all contractors of these two departments holding contracts worth more than Rs. 20,000 should be placed before the Assembly once every year showing therein the relationship—personal, business or otherwise—between these contractors and the gazetted officers of the departments, the Ministers and the M.L.As. I also suggest that the employment tax should be removed. It has been said that compensation has been demanded from the Government of India under certain heads. May I suggest that compensation should be demanded from the Central Government not only on behalf of the Provincial Government but also on behalf of certain municipalities and district boards. The Dacca Municipality particularly should be given immediate financial assistance for wear and tear of roads, machineries, etc., caused by the military activities. Something has been said about fertiliser. Why could not the Bengal Government get the fertiliser plant to be established near Raniganj coal fields instead of near Dhanbad?

Sir, I will not take more time of the House. It is up to the Government to consider whether these suggestions are worth giving effect to.

Mr. C. GRIFFITHS: Mr. Speaker, Sir, what a wretched condition Bengal has been reduced to as the Budget for 1945-46 shows—receipts 28,78,00,000 and expenditure 37,38,00,000. Last year our expenditure amounted to 47 crores of rupees nearly four times that of 1937. The burden of taxation falls heavily on the middle class working man. True, the rich pay Super Tax and Excess Profits Tax, but it is the people of this class who are responsible for all our trouble by under-paying the hungry *raiyats*. (Hear, hear!) Again, the Finance Minister states that in three years the Government suffered a loss of 22½ crores of rupees in purchasing rice. This is scandalous. (Shame, shame!) For, it means the disappearance of shortage of 15 million maunds of rice at Rs. 15 per maund for which the present Government should resign. (Hear, hear!) Fix responsibility, otherwise it becomes a liability of the Jute Industry. As rice is our staple food and as jute has displaced paddy I would like 20 minutes to speak on this subject of vital public importance.

This war with the loss of Burma has definitely shown us that Bengal cannot feed its people. Thousands and thousands have died in consequence. The masses have been reduced to such poverty that they are practically beggars. They could not even purchase their meagre fare when wheat products were imported from the Punjab because the wage of millions of our people is reckoned at about one anna per day per man (shame, shame!). This astoundling fact I shall prove. The middle classes have found it a problem to live, while some of the rich have been in their element adding to their riches on the death struggles of the dying poor. (Hear, hear!) This war has done more; it has revealed the fact that Bengal in growing jute was forced into a blind alley with regard to our food supplies and the shortage of food has been the cause of all our misery and woe, destitution, disease and death. (Hear, hear!)

It is a well known axiom "Every action has a reaction" or better still as Emerson puts it "Every excess causes a deficit". To grow jute and hold the world's monopoly, to defy competition in manufacturing hesssian and gunny cloth as the cheapest wrapping and packing material in the world it is necessary to acquire over three million acres of good paddy lands. Fertile lands which could yield over 30 million maunds of rice and feed a population of 50 million human souls as Bengal is at present doing by rationing and further, Sir, it is necessary that millions of our countrymen be kept in bondage on semi-starvation diet with no food for livestock and poultry to supplement their earnings. Therfore, Sir, their position is worse than that of slaves. The capitalists find it cheaper to hire labour than to own it, because slaves have to be fed, clothed, housed and given medical attention, and all this cannot be done on one anna per day per capita. (Cries of "hear, hear" from the Opposition benches.) Therefore by stratagem the men were by degrees starved and compelled to surrender their fair paddy lands for jute and so we have lost the substance for the shadow.

The plan of attack seems to have been as follows: first to dump rice into Calcutta and to form a glut in the market, then to advance money to those in distress and next to fix terms demanding jute crops instead of rice, with the result livestock and poultry could not survive and so the cottage industries of milk, *ghee* or butter, eggs, poultry and meat would be lost for ever and *raiyats* ruined, and brought under subjection, no longer independent and free.

The jute merchants need betwen three and four million acres of good paddy lands because they have to produce between 45/60 million maunds of jute. Otherwise countries like Java, Mesopotamia, Portuguese East Africa and Argentina where jute can be grown would come in to compete with them. But, Sir, never at our producing rates but at our export

rates which often reach Rs. 24 to Rs. 30 per maund. Then to ward off foreign competition, down comes the price of exported jute to about Rs. 12 to Rs. 15 per maund and who suffers—not the merchants but the poor Bengal *raiyats*. (Cheers from the Opposition benches.) They are squeezed and have to sell at cheaper rates. Their income of one anna per head was quite in order when Bengal had full and plenty of livestock and poultry and when cowries and the 12 pies to the anna had purchasing power.

Mrs. Fay, an Anglo-Indian lady of Society, in 1780 stated that a whole sheep cost only two rupees. A lamb one rupee.

Sir, in growing *pat* and not *bhat* a people once blessed with full and plenty in a most fertile land, a country so to say, flowing with milk and honey has been reduced to want and disease in a wilderness of jute which reminds us of Coleridge's "Rime of the Ancient Marine" instead of "Water, wafer everywhere, not a drop to drink" we have "*pat*, *pat* everywhere not a particle to eat." ("Hear, hear" from Opposition benches.)

Sir, with paddy the people could keep their livestock and poultry and carry on a sort of cottage industry in milk, *ghee* or butter, eggs, poultry and meat and be a free and happy people. But, Sir, within the last hundred years, our paddy lands have been converted into jute lands. First it was gradual and hardly perceptible then by leaps and bounds and now when we witness the climax we find at what a sacrifice, what a ruthless destruction to benefit a few. Rice was imported not only from Burma but also from Siam and Indo-China, to supply Ceylon, the Middle East and Africa and this acted as a deterrent to grow paddy. Then the money-lending *mahajan* known as *thugs* in business for their ruthlessness, as middlemen demanded jute instead of rice from *raiyats* they had trapped and got into their clutches. What a tragedy for Bengal! It seems almost a crime to have reduced ignorant *raiyats* to sell their birthright for a mess of pottage. In short what was the use of money, when there was little or no food available. It was not a fair exchange. Therefore it was wrong in the sight of God. But the people in hopes of better days now reduced to bondage had to comply with the task-master's orders and accept whatever prices were fixed for their labours. The development of the jute industry was rapid. From only 192 looms in 1859 it gradually went up to 15,213 in 1901, then it rose to 40,898 in 1921 after certain mills declared dividends of 200/300 per cent. and, now soared to 65,386 looms—no longer a blessing but a curse to Bengal. On the other hand, the disappearance of our livestock and poultry was as rapid for they could not survive on jute. Therefore milk, etc., became scarcer and scarcer and prices rose accordingly. No drastic steps were taken by the authorities to prevent milk and *ghee* being adulterated, because I suppose a little had to go a long way.

The poor had to suffer in silence. Their general health had to give way and be exposed to the ravages of Malaria and Tuberculosis. The educated middle classes found it a problem to live, there was general discontent in the country and it grew as living became more and more expensive, domiciled European and Anglo-Indian girls had to go out and work and today Indian girls are doing the same. Compare prices in 1901—why this abnormal rise? The only explanation given is that the population is increasing. This may be so, but, Sir, why have not the numbers of our cattle, sheep, goats, fowls, ducks and geese increased. Simply because they could not survive on jute. Nature is a fond parent and always provides for her children. The birth rate has gone up in England and what is more that there are more male babies. But by working against nature, planting jute instead of paddy, our livestock and poultry were destroyed, and the people reduced to beggars, thousands and thousands dying of starvation. Who is responsible?

Now let us prove our case, if we cede that the population is 60 millions then we can safely assume that two-thirds or 40 million live by growing jute and rice. This estimate seems fair and reasonable. Jute lands yield on an average about 50 million maunds which at Rs. 9 per maund = Rs. 450 millions. Rice lands yield on an average about 30 million maunds at Rs. 15 per maund = Rs. 450 millions. Therefore the average income of 40 million people = Rs. 22-8 per annum.

Let us take Rs. 2 per month; this gives us one anna per day per head for those millions who could not supplement their income. (Cries of "shame, shame" from the Opposition benches.)

Next, let us check our exports and see from where rice and paddy are exported. Chittagong on the Karnaphuli adjacent to Burma exports rice. This port also exports livestock and poultry. Then there is Tuticorin in South India which exports rice to Ceylon. We also find that this port exports livestock. Therefore where there is a gain we find livestock and poultry.

There is no doubt that the majority were sacrificed for the minority and today when we sum up and analyse the facts we find that we are confronted with Majority Rule. What a diabolical farce. It is the invention of the worshippers of the Golden Calf. The money-making Jews as politicians have had a free hand in our country since the last Great War. What can the Twin Khwaja Ministry do for us ? Nothing. Can they do more than an all-parties Government ? Certainly not. What is the common bond that can keep a nation together ? Surely their country ruled with justice and the slogan "Each for all and all for each" and so our Empire. Carefully weigh the words of that Great Boer Leader Field Marshal Smuts. "If South African Indians consider themselves as Indian Nationals then repatriate them," in the same way if Jews and other nationals fail to identify themselves with our country, they should be repatriated, otherwise they act as clogs in the wheel of progress. Max Muller said that a people that can feel no pride in the past, in its history lose the mainstay of its natural character. When Hitler said that the Jews were a menace to his country, that they bled the nation of its wealth, I seriously ask if Jews could do otherwise in England and India. England better beware of the Jews. India has every reason to remember the Jews and the muddle they have put our country into over Majority Rule. Rightly has Dr. Syamaprasad Mookerjee asked "If 25 per cent. of Muslims will not yield to 70 per cent. Hindus at the Centre, then by what right does 54 per cent. of the Muslims rule 44 per cent. Hindus in Bengal." Sir, by the right of Jewish Logic and Scheming, by Force and Retaliation. An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. In the same way Anglo-Indians and Domiciled Europeans were declared as Indians, under Victoria 33 and yet they were removed from the various services to make room for other Indians when so-called Indianising came into force. What benignant justice for the strong but absolute injustice for the weak.

Sir, consider the large sums of money spent to transform semi-desert lands into fertile fields. The Sukkur Barrage in Sind and the Sutlej Valley project in the Punjab cost over 42 crores of rupees.

The revenue from our jute exports yield annually 4 crores of rupees. Therefore the Bengal *raiyats* paid the cost of these two irrigation schemes within the last 10 years and what is more the Government gets an annual income of nearly 3 crores of rupees from the money so invested. One wonders if the Punjab hastened to save Bengal and if not who was responsible. Nevertheless the cries of the children of Bengal have gone up to heaven for we find that our Australian Governor has been touched at the plight of the people. His Excellency Mr. R. G. Casey said: "The task that faces us in Bengal is to raise the standard of living and

so the standard of happiness of the people". How Sir? Only by bringing down the cost of paddy in our own country to half that of jute per acre. His Excellency then appealed to the successful men at Calcutta saying that they sprang originally from one or the other districts of Bengal. Let me make it clear that the jute industry is not in the hands of the children of the soil but in the hands of those the four letters J U T E signify. J for Jews, U for U. S. A. Nationals and Up-country Muhammadans, T for *thugs* in business and the Thomas Duff group of Mills incorporated in England and E for the Europeans not domiciled here (laughter) referred to as "foreigners" by Sir Evelyn Wrench. Sir, where the Jew sets the pace others must follow or step out of the race. Their *modus operandi* to evade Excess Profits Tax is to issue bonus shares, raise capital and reduce profits. When a tradesman is found profiteering he is convicted and fined, but when a merchant Jew does the country down, he is bestowed with a Knighthood. Strange administration of Justice for the rich! No wonder it is said the "All Mighty Dollar".

Sir, the only remedy is to give the jute cultivator fair exchange for his produce. Therefore rice must be produced twice as much in quantity per acre to make up for the deficit, and that the price per maund be half as cheap as that of jute and to achieve this the most scientific methods must be applied to our paddy lands, which means fresh capital.

Sir, the jute industry must find this money, say, 10 crores per annum, simply because they did not know when to call a halt and have ruined Bengal. They are now working on a 6½ per cent. profit basis giving the Central Government 93½ per cent. and so Mr. Walker perhaps claims: "They had been doing everything possible to help the War effort and when facts were made known they would be in the nature of an eye-opener to the world at large." (Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri: Hear, hear.) Yes, Sir, when real facts are known they will be in the nature of an eye-opener. To appease the Government with money belonging to shareholders will not exonerate them for the misery and woe brought on Bengal. Have not our Steel, Iron, Coal, Tea, Sugar and other industries done as much towards war production? But they cannot camouflage and net.

Sir, the jute industry is a monopoly of Bengal and as such it should be Government controlled.

Further, Sir, as nearly 50 per cent. more of the jute shares are held by Indian investors, the Government has a right to place representatives on the various Boards as Directors to see that undue advantage is not taken by some of the agents holding up dividends, appropriating more than they should for depreciation and other irregularities which I have not the time now to deal with. The capital invested in the jute industry is as follows: 205 million rupees + 2½ million £s + 3¾ million dollars in all roughly 250 million rupees, but the Gross Block Expenditure of the 65,386 looms is nearly 750 million rupees. Who do you think has paid this extra 500 million rupees? But the unprotected Indian shareholders, many widows, orphans, pensioners and retired professional and businessmen. The Directors and the share brokers throw off and draw in the public by starving the public and overfeeding themselves. It is as bad as allowing men to play with loaded dice. It is the duty of the Government to protect their people. The sales of our jute exports amount to 80 to 100 crores of rupees. The profits made by some of the merchants are as much as the salary of the Viceroy of India Rs. 250,800 per annum, because the whole industry filters through 70 Mills and is controlled by about 30 Agents (major and minor) of whom ten are of the first order. Therefore when we come down to stern facts we find that each of these jute kings are responsible for the woes and misery of millions of human

souls, some dying for want of food at 1 anna per day per head, others suffering with malaria and tuberculosis with no medical attention and the children crying for want of milk, mothers unable to nurse them and some even selling their bodies to exist. (Cries of "Shame, shame" from Opposition benches.) All these evils arise from greed for money and power.

Sir, if the publication of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" had inflamed the public conscience to such a state, so as to cause the Civil War in America and liberate the Negro slaves, if the celebrated lines of Mrs. Browning the "Cry of the children" did away with children labour of 8 and 10 in English factories, then, Sir, why cannot the appeal of our Australian Governor to the members of the Royal Asiatic Society to raise the bread line of the starving masses of Bengal stir this House to action, and the jute merchants to sympathy and reason? Let them feed the cultivators, give the cultivators a fair measure and bring prosperity to Bengal. Let our slogan for the 4 letters JUTE signify Justice Unites The Empire. (Loud applause.)

Khan Bahadur Maulvi FAZLUL QUADIR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the very outset I congratulate the 15th Army for liberating Akyab and the Ramri Island from the clutches of the enemy and thus freeing India from south-eastern threat after three years hard fighting. I also express deep gratitude to the Friends Ambulance Unit for opening several free canteens particularly in the district of Chittagong and feeding 100 orphans and destitute children in each centre supplying them with milk and vitamin pills and clothing. This great philanthropic work was taken up by the Friends Ambulance Unit when all other organisations ceased to function. They have earned ever-lasting gratitude of the public.

Now, Sir, I wish to make a few observations as regards the administration of the province as a whole and particularly draw the attention of the Ministers-in-charge of Revenue, Agriculture, Veterinary, Local Self-Government, Industry, Finance and Education.

Revenue Department.—I pity the sufferings of a large number of people, whose land, buildings and houses, tanks, trees, etc., were requisitioned, acquired or occupied for military purposes in some cases without notice and preparing any record by Land Acquisition Officers of Chittagong as to the nature of property taken, the number of houses, tanks, etc., standing on the land in the town as well as in areas outside the town—price paid at Rs. 500 per acre for land acquired in the district of Chittagong as said by the Hon'ble Minister, Revenue, in reply to unstarred question 3, dated 16th February, 1945, is too low as the price of land varies in the mufassal from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 3,000 per acre. This fact will be borne out if enquiry is made in the registration offices and it is also substantiated by the speech of the Hon'ble Minister, Finance. In page 14 he says that stamps and registration fees have been substantially enhanced and revenue increased, this increase in revenue is not only due to the increase of fees on registration and duty on stamps but is largely due to the increase in the value of the property transferred by 500 per cent. The rent fixed for requisitioned land, building, etc., is too low in comparison with the rise in prices of foodstuffs, clothing, etc., and within the municipality rent has been fixed on the municipal tax and on the valuation of the houses and buildings, etc., which were constructed in pre-war time. Fair and equitable rent has not been fixed and paid as directed by the Government of India. This is the action of the local subordinate officers who in order to curry favour with their higher officers, cut the throats of the poor people who have been turned out of their hearth and homes As regards removal expenses and cost of construction of temporary houses, very insufficient amount was paid to each holder of a house and property in

comparison with that given to the people of Feni. It is really a misfortune to the worst suffering people of Chittagong. In some cases, compensation for occupation of land and buildings has not been paid for over a year and in some cases no record was prepared of the land taken away for extension of roads for military purposes. The contractors cut the road side land belonging to the public without giving any notice and compensation of any kind. Along the Chittagong to Teknaf road and also other roads, this *zuloom* was done. No one can raise any voice of protest against it. I brought these facts to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister, Revenue, before he visited Chittagong in August last but to no effect. I demand that these injustices should be remedied soon.

Agriculture and Veterinary.—In connection with Grow More Food campaign, the Hon'ble Minister said in his budget speech "Finally, in order to increase the area under cultivation railway side lands are being settled with tenants on a temporary basis and action is being taken to bring as much arable waste under cultivation as possible". This is all to the good but this movement has taken away all the available grazing field near about the villages and the dumb millions of cattle have been put on starvation as there is no pasture land in almost all unions. Government in their earnestness of the drive entirely forgot all about the cattle. Man has invaded the domain of the cattle. In recent years the Grw More Food Campaign has practically robbed the cattle of their pasture. Fallows and uncultivable wastes have been shrunk in size. Re-afforestation measures have deprived the village cattle of grazing facilities to a large extent even on payment of a fee. Cattle today live on rationed fodder. They cry and long for freedom from want, want pasture and water and suitable environmental conditions. Every effort should be made to arrest further deterioration. The prosperity of the country and lives of human beings depend on cattle, no appreciable steps are being taken to stop cattle epidemic and to introduce mass inoculation against rinderpest. I would suggest that Government should start mass inoculation in Chitagong and other districts where cattle diseases occur every year. Besides, a veterinary surgeon should be placed in each police-station so that he may attend to its needs immediately Under the present system it takes 10 to 15 days to reach the news of epidemic to the Veterinary Officers. The Hon'ble Minister, Finance, in his budget speech said that "three experts in dairy and poultry farming from the Government of New Zeland have been obtained". This we highly appreciate but I strongly urge the Government to take immediate steps to save the cattle and poultry from epidemic and other diseases and provide pasture land and grazing fields first and then train the people in dairy and poultry farming. Till now we have seen hardly any case in which cattle were saved when attacked by rinderpest and nothing could save them; so, the first steps should be to protect the animals from epidemic.

As regards the poultry I am keenly interested in it. In part of the district we could not save 20 per cent. of the chickens due to Reniket and other diseases. I wrote to the Government Live-Stock Expert of Dacca Farm and in reply he wrote to me on 10th January, 1944, that "Reniket and chickenpox are the commonest contagious diseases of poultry. But I regret to say that no remedy has yet been found for the former disease, although considerable research work is being pursued to find one". Is it not deplorable and disappointing for poultry farmer? What were the so-called experts doing so long? They miserably failed in finding out a remedy. Therefore before starting poultry farming serious attempt should be made to find out a remedy for these contagious diseases. The results of any successful experiments should be widely circulated in the press and by bulletin.

I give particular stress in drawing the attention of Government to make provision for pasture land at least one in each union and to keep in reserve 1/10th of the unsettled land in the village or along the side of rivers or the sea or those formed by accretion or by formation of new chars for common

grazing purposes. Besides, buffaloes are not allowed to graze in the reserve forests in consequence of which buffaloes are decreasing and dying for want of sufficient fodder. In some parts of our country it is not possible to cultivate land without buffaloes. Therefore some tracts of the reserve forest should be demarcated and yearly pass be issued for grazing of buffaloes.

Local Self-Government.—The Government has miserably failed in running the Chittagong Municipality efficiently and in maintaining its sanitary condition. Some streets and lanes are in a horrible condition, refuses are not cleared. The main street running from municipal office to Chowkbazar is in a dilapidated condition. For the last 3 years the main streets are not watered. Due to heavy military traffic they have become impassable. Dust blows in such a force when military lorries and cars run on the road that it is difficult to prevent it from being inhaled. The people thus contract T.B. and other diseases. I brought these facts to the notice of the officer-in-charge of the Chittagong Municipality. In reply he wrote to me on 12th November, 1943, that "The military lorries are supposed not to use this road. The road should be improved in due course. We are minus our watering lorries". It is not a fact that military lorries are not using this road but on the contrary they are constantly using it. Chittagong District Bar Association brought these facts by a resolution passed at its meeting of the 13th November, 1944, to the notice of the authorities but to no effect. I also tabled a question in the last session on 21st November, 1944, but got no reply as yet. I request His Excellency the Governor of Bengal through this House to pay a surprise visit to Chittagong and see the deplorable sanitary condition of the town and set at rest the inefficient municipal administration.

Sale Tax on Lungis.—Several members of the Legislatures represented to the Government for exempting *lungis* up to the value of Rs. 4 or below from sale tax. In reply the Secretary said that if *lungis* remain in *than* consisting of 4 or 5 pieces and price of the *than* is above Rs. 4 even though it is the production of handloom, tax is to be paid. *Lungis* are not used for military purposes and sold readymade. This tax on *lungi* touches the pockets of very poor people. It is nothing but a technicality of interpretation of the word "*Lungi*". The word *lungi* means a piece of cloth measuring 3-4½ cubits each and if the price is Rs. 4 or below it is exempted from the tax. A *than* of 8-9 yards in length was never contemplated in the Act. For convenience of transport and facility in selling wholesale generally a *than* of 8 to 9 yards is made by weavers; so, it is improper to levy sale tax on *lungi* even if it remains in *than*. A whole *than* cannot be used as *lungi* unless it is cut into pieces. Therefore it is clear that sale tax should be levied on each piece if the price is above Rs. 4 and not on *than*. I therefore strongly urge the Government to reconsider their interpretation and exempt the *lungis* from taxation if the price of each piece is Rs. 4 and below. *Gamchas* measuring 4-5 cubits which are worn by the poor women have not been included in the exemption list. This should be done.

Industry.—Continually from year to year we are representing to the Government the necessity of opening depot of mill yarns, dye-stuffs and chemicals to save the handloom weaving industry but to no effect. Since the war began the poor weavers have been suffering in many ways and are hardly able to make two ends meet. Even after control of yarn they are not getting sufficient stock to keep their looms running. I therefore strongly urge the Government to keep up their promises given on several occasions in reply to the questions. Depots should be opened in each district headquarters and in important weaving centres. It is very regrettable that only 1 man has got license to sell dye-stuffs and chemicals at Chowmohani for Chittagong and Noakhali, but none in Chittagong.

Education.—On behalf of the people of Chittagong I express my deep gratitude to the Hon'ble Minister, Education, and Mr. M. M. Stuart, District Magistrate of Chittagong, for their kind help in maintaining the

Government College at Chittagong for the benefit of the poor local students though Chittagong was threatened by Japanese bombing. I also express my sincere gratitude to Mr. M. M. Stuart for helping the reopening of the Collegiate School which was defunct for the last 3 years due to war by removing the Fire Brigade from its present building in spite of their violent protest and making it over to the Collegiate School with a spacious ground. This is no doubt very creditable on his part. By his activities in furtherance of education he so endeared himself to the people that the public of Fatehabad to commemorate his name have established a dispensary and named it "Stuart Charitable Dispensary, Fatehabad" for which they contributed Rs. 11,000. With these few observations I close my speech.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Sir, I congratulate the Hon'ble Finance Minister for his clear exposition of the actual financial position of the province in his budget speech. He has courageously presented the lucid picture of the country before the House. The presentation of the deficit budget in this crisis time is not at all surprising but his manner of squaring it out without imposition of further taxation on the people is really praiseworthy and deserves admiration from all sections of the House.

The first question that comes to our mind is the food problem of the province. The unhappy incidents of the famine of 1943 with its grim picture, which took away thousands of lives are still vivid in our minds. The food position with the introduction of rationing in some parts and exercise of price control has no doubt been considerably improved—the prices have come down to a large extent but still they are far beyond the buying capacity of general masses. But, Sir, the malpractices, mismanagement and the corruption that are continuing in the Food Committees—the agents for distribution in the rural areas seriously engage the attention of the public. I apprehend serious result will come out of it if proper check is not put on it. Most of the Food Committees have been formed without proper representation of the minority communities like Scheduled Castes. Many of the General Committees and most of the Executive Committees have been formed with total exclusion of the representatives of them and as a result very few amongst them have been selected as dealers for distribution of foodstuffs and in many places they are being deprived of their proper share in the distribution of commodities. In addition to this the unfair treatment of the local officers like Development Assistants and Assistant Inspectors who are concerned with them cannot be overlooked. I come from the district of Pabna. Members of the Scheduled Castes from different localities there approach me every now and then with complaints of this sort of unjust and unfair treatment that is being done to them. Every now and then we have been getting information about corruption in the matter of their administration of the Food Commitees with which they are connected. Some of these cases were also brought to the notice of the authorities but little or no steps appear to have been taken. The poor classes of people are getting no relief and their sufferings are increasing day by day. If this sort of administration is allowed to be continued without rectification, I am afraid, that will worsen the situation of the rural areas.

Now, Sir, as a member of the Scheduled Castes the next question that engages my attention is about the appointments under the Government and the communal ratio rules for the same. I am going to reiterate the old subject. By communal ratio 15 per cent. of the appointments have been reserved for the Scheduled Castes though they should get more according to population basis and they also from time to time place their demand before the Government to this effect, yet we are grateful to the Government for this reservation of posts. The Government have fixed the communal ratio in the

matter of appointments but they have no proper machinery to look after whether that ratio is carried into action. The matter will be more clarified if I cite the action of the Civil Supplies Department of the Government. Thousands of officers are taken in there to run the administration and still there are many to be recruited. It is a matter of great regret that members from the Scheduled Castes receive no fair consideration there. The requisite number of Scheduled Castes have not yet been taken in and the reasons assigned thereof that candidates from Scheduled Castes with proper qualifications are not available. But I can emphatically say that that is not at all true. It is within my personal knowledge that many Scheduled Caste graduates and qualified candidates who applied through me were not even granted interview by the Department, not to speak of their appointments. Many candidates from the non-Scheduled Castes with less qualifications have got lucrative appointments whereas candidates from Scheduled Castes with requisite or higher qualifications were refused such appointments. This is the treatment meted out towards this section of the people.

Sir, I like to give the House a specific incident that took place in connection with a Schedule Caste appointment in the Pabna Judge's Court. A few days back applications were invited only from Scheduled Castes to appear at a competitive examination, on the result of which they were to be enlisted in the waiting list. One of the imposed conditions was that the applicants must have a certificate as to the communities they belong to from a gazetted officer. The Scheduled Caste candidates could not produce any certificate from any gazetted officer at the time of the interview but they produced them from local M.L.As. The appointing authority got annoyed and refused them to sit at the competitive examination. While these candidates in a body were ready to leave the place, suddenly good sense prevailed upon him and they were allowed to sit at the examination. If the authorities have ulterior motive to exclude the Scheduled Caste candidates, to invent contrivance to serve their purpose is not difficult for them. All the candidates who were with minimum qualifications were put to much intricate and difficult questions which were of no use to the office concerned. They were examined for full four hours and after all they were found unfit. This is the treatment meted out to the members of the Scheduled Castes.

I like to give the House another instance of injusticce that has been done in the matter of appointment of Scheduled Castes. It may still be fresh in the mind of the honourable members of the House that is just on the day of the beginning of the current session, in reply to the starred question No. 12 it was seen that 60 lawyer magistrates were appointed out of which only 6 were recruited from the Scheduled Castes—less than the requisite number according to the ratio rules although more than requisite number was recommend by the Public Service Commission for appointment. It is a matter of great sorrow that this injustice was done by the Home Department of which the Hon'ble Chief Minister is in charge. In this way, though there has been reservation of appointments, still this sort of injustice is being done to them. Sir, this is not all. When Scheduled Caste candidates have the good fortune of being appointed the undesirable sections and stations are meant for them. As a result some times they are to give up their jobs or put in a most difficult position. I would request the Government to set up an Enquiry Committee to ascertain the truth of the matter that takes place with regard to the appointment of the Scheduled Castes. If this state of affairs were allowed to be continued without any check, communal ratio rules are of no use to these people.

Sir, next I come to the Budget of the Scheduled Castes Education Fund which I consider to be vitally important. The Government gave us an assurance about Rs. 5 lakhs to be earmarked for the education of the Scheduled Castes but they failed in implementing that measure. The Government have provided Rs. 5 lakhs for the coming year for the education of the Scheduled Castes who form one-fifth of the whole population of the

province; no doubt, the amount, however, is much less in proportion t their number. Still I heartily thank the Hon'ble Finance Minister and als the Minister in charge of Education of the province for this provision. But Sir, when I turn to the expenditure head of the Budget I am really mortifie to see that though the Government have provided only Rs. 5 lakhs, arrange ment has been made to spend only 3 lakhs 95 thousand with the saving o the balance. The Scheduled Caste Education Committee in their differen sittings after careful consideration prepared a scheme for 5 lakhs for th education of their boys and girls and submitted it to the Department for it acceptance, but the Department ignored it with clear tendency of saving without assigning any reasons. If that is the tendency of the Department then it is of no use to put any sum even more than Rs. 5 lakhs under thi head. In this connection I cannot but mention the other drawbacks of th Department that we have been noticing since the opening of the Fund in th matter of the disbursement. This fund was created in the year 1938-39 We have been noticing the same persistent mismanagement on the part o the department regarding distribution. Boys and girls who are awarded stipends get these stipends generally after close of the year when some ge their names struck off from the rolls of the registers of their schools and colleges and many give up their studies for want of money. Repeatedly this irregularity in the matter of distribution of stipends to the Scheduled Caste students was brought to the notice of the Government but they paid little heed to it. The case of the year 1944 is met with the same effect. The students got their stipends for the year 1944 when the year is over. This action shows that either the Department is not efficient or they have been purposely neglecting their own duties which are connected with the interests of the Scheduled Castes.

Sir, before I take my seat now I will say a few words through you to the honourable members of the Scheduled Castes of this House. They are scattered here and there. There may be some differences amongst us but those differences may be easily closed up if we bear in mind the bigger interests of our community at the sacrifice of our personal ones. The Caste Hindus are heard to say about the oppression from the Muslims and the Muslims from the Caste Hindus. But the Scheduled Castes have from both. By this bothsided pressure we are likely to be crushed out. If we study the position of the Scheduled Castes, we find in most places that they are neglected and oppressed. Rescue to them will be possible only when we shall be able to be united together and give a united fight. So, my honourable friends, my earnest request to you is to be united together and work hand in hand for the liberation of our own men.

Mr. UPENDRA NATH EDBAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon'ble Finance Minister has presented us with a deficit budget as in the past for the year 1945-46 and in support of this he has made a fine speech couched in elegant language with a view simply to divert the attention of the honourable members from its purpose; but we the members on this side are not of that type.

To take part in general discussion of the Budget and to criticise it thoroughly requiries a sufficient time but the time allotted to me for discussion is very short; so I shall not go into detailed discussion of the budget. Let me be satisfied for the present if I simply refer to some of the important items and some figures that have been included in the Budget and in the budget speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister.

Much has been said about the sad plight of the Scheduled Castes by my friend Mr. Madhusudhan Sarkar; so I need not go into detail about that.

This is a deficit budget and the deficit as shown is about 8 crores in the coming year. If we take into account the figures of the last year, the present year and the next year it will be about 23 crores.

We cannot expect a well-balanced budget at the hand of Mr. Goswami. If we do so we shall be hopelessly disappointed, because he is an extravagant man and he can hardly manage his own finance. But it is an irony of fate that he is the Hon'ble Finance Minister of the province of Bengal and is placed in charge of Bengal Exchequer.

The Hon'ble Mr. Goswami is very glad to make the bold assertion or rather takes pride in saying that their Government have been able to redeem their pledge, "There shall be no famine in 1944." But may I ask him whether their Government have been able to prevent the recurrence of preceding year's famine in the truest sense of the term? I say, certainly not. They have simply paved the way for a bitter and more formidable famine in future. The victims of destitution and sickness are surely no longer adrift but I regret to say that they have been badly housed and have not been provided with good food and good shelter and medical relief which they really need. I often hear various complaints from the Superintendents of "Relief Houses" or "Destitutes' Homes" and "F.R.E. Hospitals" that they are not properly supplied with their necessary requisites even on repeated demands. What to speak of medical relief! Only cinchona mixture, santonine mixture and two or three other stereotyped mixtures are administered to the ailing patients but with no effect. The result is that the patient is kept on living for some time only with a view to ultimately fall into the jaws of death.

The provision for Famine Relief operations included in the estimates amounts to 3 crores 85 lakhs in 1944-45 and 1½ crores in 1945-46. The sum is certainly quite inadequate. Whatever sum is budgeted is spent up by the department in salaries, in superintendence and maintenance and other things but very little is left with which to improve the system of treatment of the sick and the destitute.

The total provision for the free distribution of quinine and mepacrine amounts to 20 lakhs in the current year and 20 lakhs in 1946, which will appear from the Red Book. This fact I should like to visualise before the honourable members. While people are dying without number being stricken with famine and aftereffects of famine and they have no other means to save them from the clutches of various forms of epidemics that follow in its wake, the so-called kind and benevolent Government made the above provision for free distribution of mepacrine and quinine to indigent patients. The above sum of Rs. 20,00,000 for the current year is well nigh spent but I ask the honourable members who claim to be the true representatives of the country whether they know of any case of indigent patients in the mofassil who got either of them freely. It is obvious that very few people of the mofassil know anything about the free distribution of quinine, etc. I think most of this huge amount has been the income of a favoured few of the Cabinet Members, and a little amount has been spent after the purposes.

Provision is one thing and to make the best use of the same is another. The budget as it stands is satisfactory but it is misleading because it does not always serve the purposes for which it is meant.

The Department of Civil Supplies has become, no doubt, a most important one during the war time. The cost of this department is estimated at 3 crores in 1944-45 and 2 crores 75 lakhs in 1945-46. These figures, I have mentioned above, do not, of course, include the loss on the department's trading operations. These losses are heavy and there is no justification for them. It was their own creation. Due to their mismanagement and utter negligence, foodgrains got decomposed and became unfit for human consumption. Here there is the loss. Who is responsible for this loss? It is certainly the Ministers that are running the administration.

We find that many of the staffs under this department are unnecessary and have no work to function. Much money has been wasted and will be wasted after them. The sooner some of the unnecessary staffs are discharged, the better for the Government and the governed.

We find in the statement made by the Hon'ble Finance Minister that the Department of Fisheries has been reorganised. Perhaps in the meantime many posts of Deputy Directors, Superintendents, District Officers and Field Assistants have been created. But I ask the Hon'ble Finance Minister—has it in any way improved the Fisheries of Bengal although big sum of money has been drained out after them Has it in any way multiplied fishes and made them available to the people? Has it in any way improved the sad lot of the fishermen who have been hard hit by the Denial Policy adopted by the Government of Bengal? Certainly not. Then what does it mean by reorganisation while public money is being squandered away as such?

As regards livestock I like to say a few words, and then I have done. We find that a huge sum of money has been budgeted for this year and the next year too for the improvement of the Agriculture Department, and after many important schemes grouped together under the head "Grow More Food Campaign". But may I ask the Hon'ble Finance Minister and the honourable members opposite whether it will help them in the least while there has been a serious dearth of cattle in the country owing to cattle disease, over-rate human consumption and various other causes. Provision of half a crore has been made for cattle purchase loans in the Budget with a view to help the cultivators to procure a sufficient number of plough cattle for their agricultural purposes. As the supplies are extremely scanty and the importing of cattle from outside the province is very limited, the serious depletion of the cattle population can hardly be solved in near future. So I am of opinion that this will give a death-blow to the satisfactory improvement of the "Agriculture and Grow More Food Campaign" in spite of the fact that there has been sufficient sum budgeted for cattle purchase loan.

With these few words I resume my seat.

Mr. GIASUDDIN AAMED : সভাপতি মহোদয়, বিগত ১৬ই ফেব্রুয়ারী এই এসেম্‌ব্লিতে মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহোদয় যে budget পেশ করেছেন, সেই budgetকে বাংলার সর্ব্ব নাশকর বাজেট বলা যেতে পারে। (Mr. RASIKLAL BISWAS : কেন? আপনারা কি করতেন বলুন ত।)

আমার এক সিডুল কাষ্ট বন্ধু এই বাজেট আলোচনা করতে গিয়ে প্রথমেই অর্থসচিব মহোদয়কে congratulate করেছেন। আমার মনে হয় এখন রসিক বাবুও congratulation দিতে প্রস্তুত আছেন। (Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN : তা উনি বরাবরই করে থাকেন।) কিন্তু আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি, আজ বাংলা দেশের বুকে যে ঋণের বোঝা চাপান হয়েছে, বাংলার বুকে যে ২৩ কোটি টাকা deficit budget আনা হয়েছে, তাতে যে কোন বন্ধিমান লোক, বাংলার প্রতি যার বিন্দুমাত্র দরদ আছে, বাংলার জনসাধারণের সঙ্গে যার বিন্দুমাত্র সম্পর্ক আছে, তিনি এই অর্থসচিব মহোদয়কে congratulate করার পরিবর্ত্তে অন্য কিছু করতেন। (Mr RASIKLAL BISWAS : আহা হা, আপনাদের Ministerরা যে লুট করে গেছেন।) আর কথা বলবেন না, লুটের ব্যবসা আপনাদেরই একচেটিয়া।

আজ বাজেট আলোচনা করতে গিয়ে কোন বিভাগে কত খরচ হল, কোন বিভাগে কত খরচ করলে ভাল হত, এই সব মামুলি বিচার আমি করতে চাই না। কারণ বর্ত্তমান বাজেট আলোচনা করতে গেলে, আমার মতে, এই বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী যে সময় হতে কার্য্যভার গ্রহণ করেছেন, সেই সময় হতে আজ পর্য্যন্ত তাদের অযোগ্যতা, অকর্ম্মণ্যতা, এবং অপকর্ম্ম সম্পর্কে আগাগোড়া ইতিহাস আলোচনা করতে হয়। তারা প্রথমে এই মন্ত্রিত্ব গ্রহণ করে যে নীতি

অবলম্বন করেছিলেন, তার ফলে বাংলার প্রায় ৪০ লক্ষ লোক না খেয়ে জীবন দিতে বাধ্য হয়েছে। তারপর তারা পাট সম্পর্কে যে নীতি অবলম্বন করেছিলেন, তার চেয়ে মারাত্মক নীতি বাংলা দেশে আর ইতিপূর্বে হয়েছে কি না আমি জানি না। পাট একমাত্র বাংলা দেশে জন্মে এবং বাংলার অর্থকরী ফসল এবং আমাদের কৃষকেরা মাথার ঘাম পায়ে ফেলে এবং জলের ভিতর নানা রকম পচা জলে ভিজে এই যে পাট উৎপন্ন করে কত কষ্ট করে, সেই পাটের প্রতি মণে কত খরচ পড়ে, সেই সম্পর্কে হিসাব তাদের জানা উচিত ছিল। আমরা বরাবরই বলে এসেছি, পাটের নিম্নতম দর বেঁধে দেওয়া হোক। কিন্তু বর্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী সেই পাটের মিল মালিক অর্থাৎ আমি বলব, তাঁদের প্রভু,—তাঁদের ইঙ্গিতমত গত বৎসর পাটের maximum দর বেঁধে দিয়েছিলেন উনিশ টাকা। আমার মত যারা পাটচাষীর সঙ্গে সম্পর্ক রাখেন তাঁরা স্বীকার করবেন যে এই উচ্চ দর বেঁধে দেওয়ার ফলে আমাদের জনসাধারণ, বিশেষ করে, কৃষক সাধারণ, যে দরে তাদের পাট বিক্রয় করেছে, সেই দাম হতে, প্রতি মণ উৎপন্ন করতে যে খরচ তাদের লেগেছিল, তা তারা পায় নাই। তার ফলে বহু কোটি টাকা বাংলার কৃষকদের লোকসান হয়েছে। এটা অবিসম্বাদী কথা। তারপর Civil Supply নামে একটা department খুলে ভীষণ লুটপাটের ব্যবস্থা করেছেন, শুধু তা নয়, এই মন্ত্রী-মণ্ডলী একদিক থেকে বিভাগের পর বিভাগ এবং হাজার হাজার চাকরি সৃষ্টি করে শহর হতে গ্রাম পর্যন্ত চাকরির বন্যা বহিয়ে দিয়েছেন। কিন্তু তাঁরা দেখছেন না, রাজকোষে টাকা আছে কি না। আজ সেই রকম নির্বুদ্ধিতার কাজ করে কোন লজ্জায় আমাদের সামনে ২৩ কোটি টাকার deficit budget আমাদের অর্থসচিব মহোদয় এনেছেন আমরা বলতে পারি না। তিনি দেখিয়েছেন Civil Supply Departmentএর loss 1943-44 থেকে আরম্ভ করে 1944-45 পর্যন্ত ২২॥ কোটি টাকা। তারা Civil Supply Deparment খুলে ব্যবসা করতে গিয়েছিলেন। যখনই ব্যবসা আরম্ভ করলেন, তখনই opposition থেকে আমরা criticise করেছিলাম, এই ব্যবসায় তাঁদের হাত দেওয়া উচিত নয়। কিন্তু আজ ব্যবসা আরম্ভ করতে গিয়েই তারা ২২/২২॥ কোটি টাকা loss দেখাচ্ছেন। কিন্তু আমরা পূর্বে শুনেছিলাম পাঞ্জাব থেকে বাংলা দেশে যখন প্রথমে wheat আনা হয়েছিল, তাতে নাকি বহু লক্ষ টাকা লাভ হয়েছিল কিন্তু আজ সেই স্থলে কোন লাভ ত দেখিই না, অনেক লোকসান দেখতে পাচ্ছি। Civil Supply Departmentএর দরুণ লোকসান সম্পর্কে আলোচনা করলে দেখা যায়, এই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী সারা বাংলা দেশে এক দুর্নীতির বন্যা বয়ে দিয়েছেন। Civil Supply Departmentএর আগাগোড়া সমস্ত officer দুর্নীতিপরিপূর্ণ। এই Civil Supply Department দ্বারা যে সমস্ত ধান এবং চাল এবং অন্যান্য শস্য মজুদ রাখা হয়েছে, তার একটা হিসাব কাগজপত্রে আছে আমরা শুনেছি। অনেক জায়গায় লাখ লাখ মণ ধানের হিসাব দেওয়া হয়েছে—এত লাখ মণ ধান কেনা হয়েছে ইত্যাদি—কিন্তু গুদামের অভাবে তা বাহিরে ফেলে রাখা হয়েছে। কিছুদিন পরে report দেওয়া হল, তার অর্দ্ধেক পচে গেছে। আবার কিছু-দিন পর notice গেল অর্দ্ধেক ভাল না থাকলে তাড়াতাড়ি সেগুলো জলের মধ্যে ফেলা দেওয়া হোক অর্থাৎ পচা মাল যেন না থাকে। অর্থাৎ সেই লাখ মণের যে হিসাব তাঁরা দিয়েছেন—যাহা কাগজপত্রে আছে—সেই লাখ মণ ধান হয়ত কেনাও হয়নি। কাগজপত্রে কেনা হলো, পচে গেল, ফেলে দেওয়া হল কিন্তু হিসাবে দেখা গেল, কোটি কোটি টাকা আমাদের loss হয়েছে। এইসব তাদের দেখা উচিত ছিল। আজ অর্থ-সচিব মহোদয় গর্ব করে বলছেন 1943তে যে দুর্ভিক্ষ হয়েছিল, বর্তমান বৎসরে সেই দুর্ভিক্ষ হয় নি তাঁদেরই চেষ্টার ফলে। তাঁর এই বক্তৃতার ভিতর কি logic আছে আমি জানি না। 1943তে যে দুর্ভিক্ষ হয়েছিল, সেই বৎসর তিন কোটি টাকার deficit বাজেট হওয়ার কিছুটা justification থাকতে পারে কারণ আমরা বলতে পারি তখন ভীষণ দুর্ভিক্ষ ছিল। সেইজন্য ঐ বৎসর কিছু টাকা তাঁদের দুর্ভিক্ষ নিবারণের জন্য খরচ করতে হয়েছিল। কিন্তু

এই বৎসর তাঁরা যে deficit budget দেখিয়েছেন তা doubleএরও বেশী। অথচ এবার দুর্ভিক্ষ হয় নাই তাঁরাই দেখিয়েছেন। কিন্তু খাওয়ার দুর্ভিক্ষই কেবল দুর্ভিক্ষ নয়। বর্ত্তমান সময়ে কাপড়ের যে ভীষণ দুর্ভিক্ষ সে খবর কি তারা রাখেন? বর্ত্তমানে বাংলা দেশে কাপড়ের অভাবে একটা হাহাকার পড়ে গেছে। কাপড়ের কোনই সুবন্দোবস্ত নাই। আমাদের ময়মনসিংহ জেলা সম্পর্কে একটা খবর দিতে পারি। সেখানে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর হিসাবমত বরাদ্দ ছিল প্রতি জনপ্রতি দশ গজ হিসাবে প্রতি মাসে ময়মনসিং জেলার quota ছিল ৩,৩৩৪ bales অর্থাৎ ময়মনসিং জেলায় প্রতি মাসে ৩,৩৩৪ bales যাওয়ার কথা ছিল। কিন্তু গত November মাস পর্য্যন্ত ১৮ মাসে সেখানে মোট কাপড় পেঁাছেছে ৩,৬০০ bales। বুঝুন এখন যে জেলায় এখন ৬০ লক্ষ লোকের বাস এবং যেখানে প্রতি মাসে quota ছিল ৩,৩৩৪ bales, আর ১৮ মাসে সেখানে গেল মাত্র ৩,৬০০ bales। সুতরাং লোকেরা সেখানে কি করে কাপড় পেতে পারে আমি বুঝি না। যে কোটা সরকার স্থির করেছেন, সেটাও যদি পেত, তাহলেও লোক পরিপূর্ণভাবে কাপড় পরিধান করতে পারত না—এই অবস্থা ছিল। তা সত্ত্বেও আজ সেখানে এক মাসের বরাদ্দ ১৮ মাসে গেছে। সেখানের লোক কাপড়ের অভাবে কিভাবে আছে তা চিন্তা করে দেখুন। তাই বলছি কাপড়ের যে ভীষণ দুর্ভিক্ষ সে সম্পর্কে কোন প্রতিকারের কথা তিনি বাজেট বক্তৃতায় বলেন নি এবং তার কোন আভাষই দেন নি। তারপর, অর্থসচিব মহোদয় তাঁর বক্তৃতায় বাংলার post-war reconstruction সম্বন্ধে একটা লম্বা কথা বলেছেন। আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করি যে বাংলা দেশের ঘাড়ে ২৩ কোটি টাকা deficit চাপান হয়েছে, সেই বাংলা দেশ সেই ঋণ পরিশোধ করে post-war reconstructionএর কোন রকম সুবিধা করতে পারবে, এক পাগল ছাড়া আর কেহ তাহা বিশ্বাস করবে না। আমি বলব বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী বাংলা দেশের ঘোর সর্ব্বনাশ করেছে। বর্ত্তমান যুদ্ধের শেষে প্রত্যেক দেশকেই দেশের মঙ্গলের জন্য দেশে অনেক শিল্প গড়ে তুলতে হবে। সেইজন্য এখন থেকে যদি অর্থের সুগম না হয় এবং বাজেটে যদি এখন থেকেই কোটি কোটি টাকা deficit থাকে তাহলে post-war reconstructionএর কোন রকম সুবিধা জনসাধারণ করতে পাবে এই বিশ্বাস আমি করি না। কাজেই সেই দিক থেকে আমি বলব যে এই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর কাজের দ্বারা বাংলার অত্যন্ত সর্ব্বনাশ করা হয়েছে। আমি গত budget আলোচনায় বলেছিলাম যে বাংলার যে অবস্থা দাঁড়িয়েছে, এই অবস্থায় কোন দলগত মন্ত্রিত্ব দ্বারা বাংলার সমস্যা কিছুতেই মিটতে পারবে না। বাংলার সমস্যা মেটাতে হলে এখন দলের কথা ভুলে যেতে হবে। সর্ব্বদল নিয়ে যদি মন্ত্রিত্ব করা হয় এবং তাঁরা যদি চেষ্টা করেন তবে বাংলার সমস্যা সমাধান তাঁরা করতে পারেন। কিন্তু দলের মোহে পড়ে এবং নিজেদের সুবিধা ও স্বার্থের জন্য তাঁরা সে পরামর্শ গ্রহণ করেন নি। আজ এই বাংলার ঋণের বোঝা যদি সরাতে হয়, আমি জানি এই মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী কখনও তাহা পারবেন না কারণ তাঁরা এখন পর্য্যন্ত পারেন নি। আমি একমাত্র suggestion দিতে পারি, তাঁরা এখন পদত্যাগ করে Marwari Associationর হাতে যদি বাংলার ভার তুলে দেয় তাহলে আমরা ঋণমুক্ত হতে পারি। জমিদাররা যখন ঋণের বোঝায় মগ্ন হয়ে যায়, তাঁদের উদ্ধার করার জন্য Court of Wards আছে কিন্তু বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীকে রক্ষা করার জন্য কোন, Court of Wards নাই। তাই বলছি—মাড়োয়ারির হাতে বহু টাকা আছে—তাদের Associationর হাতে ভার দিলে কিছু সুরাহা হতে পারে।

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-30 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Wednesday, the 21st February, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 21st February, 1945, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (MR. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 12 Hon'ble Ministers and 188 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Increment of family allowance for security prisoner Babu Debendra Nath Jha.

*28. **Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether security prisoner Babu Debendra Nath Jha of Malda district at present lodged in the Rajshahi Central Jail has sent several petitions to the Government praying for increment of his family allowance granted by the Government?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether his family members consisting of six or seven persons are entirely dependent on his income;

(*ii*) whether, while he is in jail, his small zamindary (Touji No. 101) was sold by the Government for non-payment of revenue;

(*iii*) whether he also lost his income from mango business and agriculture due to his continued detention in jail;

(*iv*) whether he has other source of income left;

(*v*) whether his son and daughters have been compelled to suspend their studies in schools, for want of money; and

(*vi*) whether his wife, who has been ailing for a long time, has not been getting any medical aid for want of money?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of increasing the amount of his family allowance without any further delay?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) Wife and four minor children only are dependent on the prisoner's income from landed property and mango business.

(*ii*) My information is that the property in question was recorded in the names of Raj Kumar Misra and Indra Bhusan Misra and this property was sold in 1942 for arrear of revenue.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) He has no other source of income.

(*v*) I have no information.

(*vi*) His wife is ailing for some time past but she has doctors amongst her relations in the village.

(*c*) A family allowance of Rs.20 per month was first sanctioned with effect from his date of arrest (4th September, 1942) and this has been increased to Rs.30 per month with effect from 1st April, 1943.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: In view of the admission by Government in reply to question (*b*) (*iii*) that the security prisoner lost his income from mango business and agriculture due to his continued detention in jail, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of enhancing his family allowance?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He has not totally lost his income from the landed property and from the mango business, but because of his detention there has been some annual loss.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: In view of the admitted fact that his children are solely dependent on him, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of enhancing the family allowance of that gentleman?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The case of this security prisoner was reviewed and an enhancement was granted with effect from the 1st of April, 1943.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: In view of the admitted fact that the gentleman has got 5 children dependent on him, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleaesd to reconsider his case?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already stated in reply to Mr. Atul Chandra Kumar that there is some income from the landed property and from the mango business though there has been some annual loss in the income. But the income is there.

Release of Babu Sudhir Chandra Kusari, a security prisoner, on ground of health.

***29. Mr. JNANENDRA CHANDRA MAZUMDAR:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department aware—

(*i*) that security prisoner Babu Sudhir Chandra Kusari of Dacca, at present detained in the Dum Dum Central Jail, is suffering from Melancholia and has developed symptoms of mental derangement; and

(*ii*) that some of his relations applied to the Government to hand him over to their custody under such restrictions and with such securities from them including even their homestead and all other immovable properties, as the Government may think fit and proper?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what actions the Government have taken or contemplate to take in the matter?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of placing the said security prisoner in the custody of his abovementioned relations?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) The prisoner has been suffering from mental depression but his condition has since improved.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) to (*d*) His case has been duly considered and I am not satisfied that his release on medical grounds is necessary. He is getting all necessary treatment in jail.

Re: family allowance of State prisoner Babu Netai Chandra Jana.

*30. **Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) when and after what consideration the family allowance of security prisoner Srijut Netai Chandra Jana was fixed;

(*b*) whether any representations were received from him regarding the inadequacy of that allowance;

(*c*) whether he is aware that Srijut Jana's father had to sell his house at Baidyabati to maintain the family; and

(*d*) whether he is considering the desirability of increasing the allowance granted to Srijut Jana's family in consideration of their continued hardship?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) The honourable member perhaps means State prisoner Babu Netai Chandra Jana. As he had no fixed income before his detention, the family allowance in his case was fixed at Rs. 50 per month on the needs of the family in November, 1943, and it is being paid with effect from the 27th May, 1943 (date of his arrest). Besides this he has also been granted a personal allowance of Rs.30 per month.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) I have no information.

(*d*) No.

Jail visitors for Dinajpur Jail.

*31. **Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the name of jail visitors official and non-official for ordinary and security prisoners for Dinajpur Jail for the years 1942, 1943 and 1944;

(*ii*) the dates when these visitors visited the jail in the years 1942, 1943 and 1944 with particular reference to the dates when the visitors for the security prisoners visited the jail in the years 1942, 1943 and 1944; and

(*iii*) whether Mr. Abdul Jabbar, M.L.A., Mr. Kader Baksh, M.L.C., Mr. Shyama Prasad Barman, M.L.A., and Mr. Hafizuddin Chowdhury, M.L.A., were and are jail visitors for the Dinajpur Jail?

(*b*) If the reply to (*a*) (*iii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the period between which they were and are visitors;
(*ii*) whether they were and are visitors for the security prisoners;
(*iii*) whether they visited the security prisoner;
(*iv*) if so, the dates of their visits during the period they were or are visitors;
(*v*) whether the Dinajpur Jail is within their constituencies; and
(*vi*) whether they permanently live in the Dinajpur town?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether there is any M.L.A. or M.L.C., who permanently lives in the town of Dinajpur;
(*ii*) who are the M.L.As. and M.L.Cs. in Dinajpur within whose constituencies the Dinajpur district Jail is;
(*iii*) whether Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu, M.L.A., was ever a jail visitor;
(*iv*) if so, the period for which he was the visitor; and
(*v*) the dates when he visited the jail during his incumbency as a visitor?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) and (*b*) (*iii*) and (*iv*) A statement is laid on the Library Table.

(*a*) (*iii*) and (*b*) (*i*) Mr. Abdul Jabbar, M.L.A., and Mr. Kader Baksh, M.L.C., were visitors from 6th September, 1943, to 5th September, 1944, and Mr. Shyama Prasad Barman, M.L.A., and Mr. Hafizuddin Chowdhury, M.L.A., are visitors from 3rd October, 1944, till 2nd October, 1945.

(*ii*) Mr. Kader Baksh, M.L.C., and Mr. Abdul Jabbar, M.L.A., were visitors for security prisoners between 18th July, 1942, and 3rd October, 1944.

(*v*) and (*vi*) The Dinajpur Jail is not within the constituencies of Messrs. Abdul Jabbar, M.L.A., and Hafizuddin Chowdhury, M.L.A., but they have their residence in the town of Dinajpur.

(*c*) (*i*) and (*iii*) Yes.

(*ii*) Messrs. Nishitha Nath Kundu, M.L.A., Golam Rabbani, M.L.A., Mohalanobis and Khan Bahadur Mukhlesur Rahman.

(*iv*) From 28th May, 1940, to 10th July, 1941.

(*v*) I have no information.

Family allowance for Babu Sourindra Kishore Datta Chowdhury, a security prisoner.

***32. Mr. JNANENDRA CHANDRA MAJUMDAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that a family allowance had been granted to security prisoner Babu Sourindra Kishore Dutta Chowdhury of Noakhali, at present detained in the Dum Dum Central Jail, for his mother and sister with her children;

(*ii*) that before receiving any portion of the granted allowance his mother died;

(*iii*) that the payment of allowance has been stopped;

(*iv*) that his sister is getting no allowance;

(*v*) that his sister, whose husband had become a *sanyasin* and left home long before, was and is dependent on him for maintenance with her children;

(*vi*) that his shop at Feni, Noakhali, was destroyed during the Japanese air raid in April, 1943;

(*vii*) that no compensation has yet been paid to him; and

(*viii*) that his family members have fallen in great financial distress?

(*b*) If the answers to (*a*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of granting an allowance to his sister or transferring the granted allowance to her?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will he be pleased to state the reason thereof?

(*d*) If the answers to (*a*)(*vi*) and (*vii*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether and when he may get compensation for the destruction of his shop at Feni; and

(*ii*) if not, the reasons thereof?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) The family allowance of Rs. 25 per month was sanctioned for the mother of the security prisoner only.

(*ii*) to (*iv*) Yes.

(*v*) and (*viii*) I have no such information.

(*vi*), (*vii*) and (*b*) to (*d*) I invite the honourable member's attention to the reply given to starred question No. 38 on the 23rd November, 1944.

Rice production in Bengal.

***33. Khan Bahadur ABDUL WAHAB KHAN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) what are the latest figures in respect of production of rice—thana by thana—of each subdivision of the Bakarganj district; and

(*b*) the area of lands brought under cultivation—subdivision by subdivision?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Saiyid Muazzamuddin Hosain): (*a*) *Thanawar* figures are not available. Estimated subdivisional figures for 1943-44 are given below:—

	Mds.
Perojpur	4,845,996
Patuakhali	8,474,876
Bhola	4,637,817
Sadar	6,329,531

(*b*) The estimated area under cultivation (including double-cropped area) in 1943-44 is shown below:—

	Acres.
Perojpur	311,150
Patuakhali	141,000
Bhola	407,800
Sadar	1,095,050

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Vagrants Home at Mahalandi, Murshidabad.

7. Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the present position of work in the Vagrants Home at Mahalandi in the district of Murshidabad;

(*b*) when the buildings were ready for occupation;

(*c*) what are the staff appointed showing the (A) dates of appointment of each and (B) monthly remuneration for each;

(*d*) what are the numbers of vagrants lodged therein at the end of each month commencing from the first month when the Home was opened; and

(*e*) what is the total expenditure incurred on (*i*) capital account and (*ii*) revenue account for the said Vagrants Home up to the latest available date?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: (*a*) and (*b*) The construction of the permanent Vagrants Homes at Mahalandi has not yet been completed but is being proceeded with as rapidly as possible in the circumstances. No date can however be quoted for their opening. Pending completion of these Homes, two temporary Homes have been opened in Calcutta, one for adults at 24, Canal South Road, and another for childhen at 17, Canal Street, Calcutta:

(*c*) A statement A is laid on the Table.

(*d*) A statement B is laid on the Table showing numbers of vagrants in Calcutta Homes.

(*e*) A statement C is laid on the Table.

A

Statement referred to in reply to clause (c) of unstarred question No. 7, showing the staff of the Vagrants Homes.

		Rs.		
1	Controller of Vagrancy	750		5th May, 1942.
6	Managers, Vagrants Home	300	each	1942, different dates, May, August, December.
6	Assistant Managers, Vagrants Home	90	,,	1943, April-May.
4	Medical Officers, 2 on	100	,,	1943, May, July, October.
	2 on	75	,,	
2	Compounders	35	,,	1944, August.
1	Head Clerk	80		1st August, 1942.
14	Clerks	35	each	Different dates according to necessity, 1942-44.
1	Accountant	60		
1	Typist	45		
4	Head Warders	30	each	Different dates in 1943-44.
1	Head Wardress			
65	Warders	22	each	Different dates 1942-44.
21	Wardresses			
2	Orderlies	15	each	1942, May, December.
7	Office peons	13	,,	Different dates in 1942.
1	Bus driver	35		7th March, 1943.
1	Bus cleaner	12		1st August, 1943.
21	Cooks	18	each	Different dates in 1943-44.
17	Sweepers	12	,,	Different dates in 1943-44.
2	Domes	12	,,	21st August, 1943.
5	Store coolies	12	,,	Different dates in 1943-44.
2	Hospital coolies	12	,,	August, 1943.
3	Barbers, 1 on	30		8th September, 1943.
	2 on	14	each	Different dates in 1943.
6	Dhobis	15	,,	Different dates in 1943-44.

B

Statement referred to in reply to clause (d) of unstarred question No. 7, showing the numbers of Vagrants lodged in the Vagrants Homes at the end of each month, commencing from the first month when the Home was opened.

Vagrants locked up on the—	Male Home.	Female Home.	Children Home.
31st August, 1943	587	109	..
30th September, 1943	572	118	..
31st October, 1943	547	111	..
30th November, 1943	610	132	..
31st December, 1943	587	137	32
31st January, 1944	549	133	26
29th February, 1944	581	152	64
31st March, 1944	473	145	102
30th April, 1944	621	182	132
31st May, 1944	668	174	136
30th June, 1944	571	176	123
31st July, 1944	571	178	131
31st August, 1944	557	163	154
30th September, 1944	567	149	155
31st October, 1944	576	151	158

N.B.—Male and Female Homes were opened on the 2nd August, 1943, and the Children Home was opened on the 9th December, 1943.

C

Statement referred to in reply to clause (e) of unstarred question No. 7, showing total expenditure on Vagrants Home on capital and revenue account up to the 30th September, 1944.

	Rs.
To Capital Account	2,10,263
To Revenue Account	7,22,430

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to the answer contained in Statement A regarding the staff employed from 1942 onwards, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what duties each of these respective staff appointed from 1942 performed when there were no vagrants' homes at all constructed and completed?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: In the reply itself the honourable member will find that there were some temporary homes opened in Calcutta. Some of these officers were in charge of the temporary vagrants' homes and some were in charge of the construction at Mahalandi.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I invite the attention of the honourable member to Statement A in reply to question (*c*) from which it will be seen that 1 Controller of Vagrancy, 6 Managers, Vagrants' Home, 1 Head Clerk, 14 Clerks, 1 Accountant, 1 Typist, 65 Warders, 21 Wardresses, 7 office peons, etc., appear to have been appointed on different dates in 1942. The Calcutta vagrants' homes were set up in the last part of 1943. So, my question is what work these estimable gentlemen appointed and paid salaries out of public funds did during this period up to the end or middle of 1943 when some of them might have been working in the Calcutta homes?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD. Schemes were being drawn up by the Controller of Vagrancy with the help of those officers and preliminaries were gone into with their help also.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government have ascertained whether the assistance of six managers, 65 warders and 21 wardresses were necessary to draw up the scheme referred to?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: All these men were not appointed on a particular day but very few of them were actually appointed before the opening of the Home.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: So the wardresses were required to draw up the scheme?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I cannot give the actual dates of appointment but very few of them were appointed before the opening of the Home.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What were the very few wardresses doing there before the Home was started?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: They were required to make arrangements for receiving the vargrants in the Home.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why this staff of warders, wardresses, orderlies and office peons and assistant managers and managers were appointed when there was no work to be done by them except the work of drawing up schemes?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No wardresses were appointed before 1943 and I cannot give the actual dates of their appointment. Only one clerk was appointed in 1942, I mean, the head clerk and only two orderlies were appointed in 1942. Office peons were appointed along with the appointment of the managers.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government had made any attempt to enquire as to how far these expenses on revenue account during the year 1942 and the early part of 1943 were justified?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I have already stated that some officers were necessary for drawing up the scheme and for having preliminaries arranged for receiving the vagrants.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government held any enquiry as to whether the staff appointed did any work or were justified in drawing salaries from the public fund?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No occasion arose for an enquiry because Government was of opinion that the officers were appointed in time and that they had enough work.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with reference to the amount of Rs. 7,22,430 spent up to September, 1944, how much of that sum of Rs. 7,22,430 on revenue account was spent during the period when there were no Calcutta homes started?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in view of the deplorable state of affairs regarding the setting up of vagrants' homes Government is considering the desirability of enquring into the circumstances leading to this failure and examining how far the present Secretary of the Local Self-Government and Public Health Department is personally responsible and liable to damages for this delinquency?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I submit this question does not arise. My friend assumes that there has been something wrong in the vagrants' homes which Government do not admit.

Vagrants Home at Mahalandi in the district of Murshidabad.

8. Mr. S. A. SALIM: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government (Civil Defence) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the construction work of the permanent Vagrants Homes at Mahalandi is at a standstill at present?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the reasons thereof and who selected this site for this purpose?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) who is the authority that checked and passed for payment the bills of all the contractors in connection with the construction work at Mahalandi;

(*ii*) how much money has up till now been spent towards the above construction work; and

(*iii*) whether there has been any loss of Government money due to the postponement of the construction work there?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the Controller of Vagrancy is partly responsible for the affairs mentioned in item (*a*) above?

(*e*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government propose to take in this respect?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: (*a*) and (*b*) Construction work—other than that in connection with the sanitation of the Mahalandi Vagrants Home—undertaken departmentally under the supervision of the District Engineer, Murshidabad, has been stopped, pending transfer of supervision to Communications and Works Department. Arrangements preliminary to this transfer, which have taken some time, are expected to be completed shortly.

The selection of site was made by the Controller of Vagrancy and Babu P. Roy Chowdhury, Special Officer, and approved by Government on the recommendation of the then Director of Public Health.

(*c*) (*i*) Bills were checked first by the District Engineer, Murshidabad, and then by the Controller of Vagrancy. In respect of bills received subsequent to the stoppage of the works, additional check by Communications and Works Department is being made.

(*ii*) Rs.2,10,263.

(*iii*) and (*d*) No.

(*e*) Does not arise.

Amendment of Bengal Mining Settlements Act, 1912.

9. Mr. ISWAR DAS JALAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the necessity of amending the Bengal Mining Settlements Act, 1912, with a view to provide better conditions of health to the miners and to secure necessary resources for the same;

(*b*) whether Government have under examination any scheme for reorganisation of the Asansol Mines Board of Health, and if so, what are the main outlines of the same;

(*c*) whether Government have received any suggestion from any Medical Association for amending the Mining Settlements Act, 1912, suitably; and

(*d*) whether Government are considering the desirability of maintaining a properly equipped publicity motor van and a central hospital in the coal field for the welfare of and public health propaganda amongst miners?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: (*a*) and (*c*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes; but the main outlines have not yet been settled.

(*d*) The matters will be considered along with the question of amendment of the Act.

Recruitment of Lawyer-Magistrates.

10. Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of applications received up to date by the Public Service Commission for appointment of Lawyer-Magistrates;

(*b*) the number of them that were recommended for appointment by the Commission;

(*c*) the number that were actually appointed by the Government; and

(*d*) the reason for not appointing the rest?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) 1,002.

(*b*) 148.

(*c*) 60.

(*d*) Recruitment of a further number of Lawyer-Magistrates is still under consideration of Government.

Cattle-lifting offences in and around Krishnagar town.

11. Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government are aware of a number of cases of cattle-lifting in and around Krishnagar town during the current year 1944;

(*b*) whether proper enquiries have been made into reports of cattle thef received by the police during the period;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the local police wanted the assistance o some special staff to detect the crime;

(*d*) whether the Subdivisional Officer, Sadar, Krishnagar, has receive any petitions from the victims of such crimes praying fo adequate protection;

(*e*) what steps have been taken on such petitions, if received;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that the area in and around villages Jhitkipot and Baruihuda within police-station Krishnagar, have beei notorious in regard to cattle-lifting; and

(*g*) whether Government have so far taken or are proposing to take an special measures to check the crime of cattle-lifting in an around Krishnagar?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) Yes, 4 cases of cattle-lifting and 4 cases of missing of stray cattle have been reported so far.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) and (*f*) No.

(*d*) One such petition was received.

(*e*) After police investigation all these were found to be cases of the miss ing of cattle when straying. The town and the rural police have beei directed to be on the look-out for stray cattle and to inform the thana when ever any are found. On receipt of such information proper publicity is given and efforts are made to find out the owner of such missing cattle.

(*g*) No special measure is considered necessary.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In view of 4 cases of cattle-lifting and 4 cases of missing of stray cattle reported in the area, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no special arrangement was made as referred to in answer (*g*) to check the crime in and around the Krishnagar town?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: During the whole period of 12 months only 4 cases of cattle-lifting and 4 cases of missing of stray cattle occurred and, therefore, it was not considered necessary to take any special staff for the purpose of controlling the crime.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that the local police verbally complained to the Subdivisional Officer regarding the inadequacy of their staff to stop such occurrences?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. On the other hand, Government's information is that the local authorities consider the staff adequate to deal with these—only four cases of cattle-lifting and four cases of missing of stray cattle.

Cattle-lifting in and around Krishnagar town.

12. Mr. SURENDRA NATH BISWAS: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that there have been numerous cases of cattle-lifting in and around Krishnagar town within the last few months;

(*ii*) that the police of the locality pleads overworked and helplessness in detecting such crimes for want of special staff; and

(*iii*) that an application on behalf of the sufferers has been made to the Subdivisional Officer, Krishnagar?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state (*i*) what steps have been taken thereon and (*ii*) what has been the result?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that there are several ex-convicts in and around the village of Baruihuda, police-station Krishnagar, where cattle-lifting has occurred in large number; and

(*ii*) whether the Government propose—

(1) to depute special staff to detect and prevent the crime by binding down the suspects and levying collective fines, and

(2) to keep a special eye on the exporters of cattle who pass through Krishnagar to Calcutta with their herds and on the local butchers, who are suspected of buying some of the stolen cattle?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) (*i*), (*ii*) and (*c*) (*ii*) No.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) The cases mentioned in the application have been found on enquiry, to be those of cattle straying and found missing. The town and the rural police have been directed to be on the look-out for cattle straying and to inform the police-station whenever any such cases are found. Proper publicity is given to all such information, when received, and efforts are made to find the owners of such missing cattle.

(*ii*) None of the stray cattle have been traced up to date.

(*c*) (*i*) Yes; but during the last 12 months only 4 cases of cattle-lifting and 4 cases of missing of stray cattle were reported.

Collection of Red Cross Fund at District Sub-Registrar's Office, Bankura.

13. SJ. MANINDRA BHUSAN SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education (Registration) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any collection has been made for the Red Cross Fund at the office of the District Sub-Registrar at Bankura;

(*ii*) if so, how much has been collected and credited to the Fund; and

(*iii*) whether people attending the said office were made to contribute to the Fund at certain rate levied for each deed executed?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of stopping this method of collection?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) A sum of Rs.201-10 only.

(*iii*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Train accidents at Keotkhali, Mymensingh.

***37. Maharaja BHUPENDRA CHANDRA SINGHA, of Susang:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there have been several accidents on account of passengers sitting on the top of moving trains while passing below the bridge at Keotkhali (near the Mymensingh railway station), along which the Bhairab line passes (in the Bengal and Assam Railway section);

(*b*) how many cases of accidents have taken place from January, 1943, to 30th November, 1944, in that way;

(*c*) how many have proved fatal; and

(*d*) what measures have been taken to prevent recurrence of such accidents?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prasanna Pain). (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Ten.

(*c*) Six.

(*d*) I am informed that the Railway Administration have issued instructions to Station Masters and Guards to see that passengers found travelling on roofs of carriages or on footboards are taken off even at the cost of detention to trains. The feasibility of increasing the clearance of the over-bridge at Keotkhali is under examination of the Railway Administration. It is also proposed by them to convert goods stock for use of passengers on branch line trains and utilise coaching stock thus released for strengthening main line trains. It is expected that this will improve the position.

Molestation of women by military men.

*38. **Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a number of cases of outrages on respectable women and unauthorised entry into private dwelling houses with a view to criminal acts by military men, Indian and Foreign, in the city and suburbs of Calcutta;

(*b*) What action has been taken by Government—
(*i*) to punish the miscreants, and
(*ii*) to prevent the recurrence of such misdeeds;

(*c*) whether Government are aware that on the night of 31st October, 1944, two Europeans in Naval uniform forcibly entered certain houses in Howrah town within the jurisdiction of Golabari police-station and molested and outraged a respectable girl and threatened the householders with revolvers;

(*d*) whether the movements of these two men were duly reported to the local police-station and, if so, what action was taken by the police;

(*e*) whether the miscreants were captured at the spot with the help of local residents that very night; and

(*f*) what action, if any, has been taken to bring the criminals to book and to save the life and honour of women in such areas?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) There have been eight cases of unauthorised entry into private dwelling houses by military men in the city of Calcutta and suburbs and no case of outrage on any respectable woman.

(*b*) (*i*) Of these eight cases, three are under investigation and another is before a Court Martial. The other four cases were reported to the U.S.M. Police who arranged for special patrols in the area.

(*ii*) Close liaison is encouraged with the military officers.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) and (*e*) The men were arrested by the police at the spot in the presence of local residents and brought to the police-station.

(*f*) A case has been instituted at Golabari police-station and charge-sheet has been submitted.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answers (*a*) and (*c*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how he reconciles the two wherein in the first case he says that there has been no case of outrage on any respectable woman and in answer to (*c*) he admits that there was a case in Golabari police-station in which a respectable girl was outraged and molested?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: When I first read this answer, it struck me also, but I am surprised that Dr. Sanyal has not seen the catch in it. The question (*a*) is about Calcutta and suburbs. As regards (*c*), it is about Howrah, and that is a different municipality.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the Calcutta Police Act applies to certain parts of Howrah as well?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That may be so; but as far as Howrah is concerned, Howrah is never considered as a suburb of Calcutta.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Calcutta Police Act and certain sections of the Calcutta Municipal Act also apply to Howrah?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The Calcutta Police has no jurisdiction over Howrah.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Does not the Calcutta Police Act apply to Howrah?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That is a different matter.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which court has been trying this case referred to in answer (*c*)?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: One of the Deputy Magistrates of Howrah is trying this case.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Are the culprits free or under bail or under detention?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The case is *sub judice*. I have not got any further information.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the police of Golabari thana were duly informed of the actual attempt of these two culprits to enter respectable houses in that locality and although long time was permitted to elapse, the police did not appear promptly at the scene?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: My information is otherwise. They appeared promptly, they arrested them and took them to the thana.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the two culprits were inside the house for nearly half an hour and the police were standing outside watching when the two culprits were continuing their rape and assault on the girls inside?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I have no information.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that a young boy Lankeshwar Sadhukhan of the locality residing at 12, Atul Ghose Lane, who was attracted by the shouts of the mother of the girl raped appeared on the scene and it was he who first tried to catch the miscreants and not the police?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I do not think there is any dispute about these things and, in any case, the matter is *sub judice*. From the question itself it appears that the police was not present at the time when this gentleman tried to arrest. Evidently, as soon as the police came, they took over charge, if the statement of the honourable member is correct, but anyhow the matter, as it stands now, is that the police did arrest them, the police took them over to the thana and they submitted a charge-sheet and the matter is *sub judice*.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the conduct of the police in this connection is a *sub judice* matter?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Not that I know of.

Dr NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, my question is in that connection. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that three police constables appeared at the scene after about half an hour since the information was given to them and when the soldiers were actually still continuing their misbehaviour in Bishnu Babu's house, they appeared but did not attempt to save the girls?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I have got no information of this kind and no report of this character has reached me.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that when the soldiers were making their way out of the house to escape, Lankeswar Babu who was waiting struck on the shoulder of one of the soldiers with a *lathi* and the soldier fired a revolver which fell from his hand after he struck and then the police came near the man?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: This might be. I have got no information and besides these questions are *sub judice*.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Why take shelter under this plea?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: There is no question of shelter. This has got nothing to do with that.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if this Government has any power to prevent recurrence of such highhandedness and brutal acts of the military?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No Government in the world anywhere has power to stop all crimes. In this particular case, action was taken promptly and the man is being tried for his crime according to the law that has been provided.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why there is such delay in the disposal of the case from the 31st October to the end of February?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That is a matter for the Magistrate. I have got no information that delay is taking place.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the two culprits are now not in police custody?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the liaison referred to in answer (*b*) (*ii*) which is considered to be necessary for preventing such crimes?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: From time to time the officers of the Government keep themselves in touch with the military authorities and if they find that in any particular area there is any recrudescence of crimes of this character, they ask the military authorities to either put in a patrol system or to take steps to see that these things are prevented.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the military police patrol themselves encourage, if not connive at, some of these kinds of crimes—even they instigate some of the soldiers to insult womenfolk?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I have had many complaints of this kind from various people but I have never heard of a complaint of this character. On the other hand, from what I have heard, the military police have been always of great assistance to anybody who has been assaulted.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of putting plain-clothed dependable police men at Howrah station or at Sealdah to watch the activities of the military police at those platforms to discover whether they themselves are guilty of insulting behaviour to Indian womenfolk?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I have received no such complaints and until complaints are formally made, we do not think it is advisable to take the step.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*f*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have engaged any eminent counsel to conduct the prosecution case?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No, I do not think anyone beyond the usual law officer of Government has been engaged.

Rationing of essential commodities in districts of Bengal.

***34. Dr. SANAULLAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing, district by district, the agencies through which the rationing of—

(*i*) rice,
(*ii*) kerosene,
(*iii*) sugar,
(*iv*) salt, and
(*v*) other necessities of life

is being carried out?

(*b*) Do the Government propose to follow a uniform system of distribution throughout the Province?

MINISTER in charge of the CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) and (*b*) There is no general rationing scheme for areas outside Calcutta and the industrial area but arrangements have been made to distribute controlled commodities, such as kerosene, sugar and salt in the districts on a rationed basis through local Food Committees. Each head of a family has been supplied throughout the Province with a composite ration card in which is noted the quantities of each kind of controlled commodity for which he is eligible. Lists of families eligible to receive rations have been prepared by the Village Food Committees and consolidated union by union under the supervision of Union Food Committees. The allotment of commodities is made by the District Food Committees to the Subdivisional Food Committees which pass on proportionate allotments to the Jute Circle Food Committees, which in their turn re-allot them to

the Union Food Committees. The last named committees carry out the actual distribution amongst the people. A list showing the numbers of the various Food Committees is laid on the Table.

A scheme for the modified rationing of foodgrains on a uniform basis in certain deficit areas and municipal towns has been put into operation when occasion required.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 34.

Name of district.	Number of Food Committees constituted.					
	Village Food Committees.	Union Food Committees.	Jute Circle Food Committees.	Town Food Committees.	Subdivisional Food Committees.	District Food Committees.
Burdwan ..	1,955	188	32	5	4	1
Birbhum ..	1,492	174	27	2	2	1
Bankura ..	1,074	125	20	3	2	1
Midnapore ..	4,362	434	63	7	6	1
Howrah ..	636	82	8	1	1	1
Hooghly ..	1,321	126	21	1	3	1
24-Parganas ..	2,712	254	43	5	5	1
Khulna ..	1,778	193	24	1	3	1
Jessore ..	3,703	256	43	6	5	1
Murshidabad ..	1,457	158	23	6	4	1
Nadia ..	2,015	265	42	9	5	1
Rajshahi ..	2,566	185	30	3	3	1
Pabna ..	2,125	148	26	2	2	1
Bogra ..	1,991	134	22	2	1	1
Malda ..	1,392	135	22	3	1	1
Dinajpur ..	2,272	243	39	3	3	1
Rangpur ..	3,409	238	58	4	4	1
Jalpaiguri	485	137	22	1	2	1
Darjeeling (Siliguri only)	173	26	4	1	1	1
Chittagong .	1,157	185	31	2	3	1
Comilla .	3,315	194	49	3	4	1
Noakhali ..	2,111	146	25	2	2	1
Dacca .	2,206	325	49	2	5	1
Mymensingh ..	4,846	464	75	8	6	1
Faridpur ..	3,684	238	40	3	4	1
Bakarganj ..	3,103	303	39	6	5	1
Total ..	57,340	5,356	877	91	86	26

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the Food Committees referred to in the answer were hardly ever constituted in accordance with the instructions issued by Government through proper election and through the inclusion of representative members of various political and other parties?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, I do not think this is correct, Sir. There have been some cases in which such complaints have been received and they have been looked into, but generally speaking the Village Union Committees have been constituted in accordance with the rules. The honourable member also must be aware that there is a provision for the reconstitution of the Committees annually and this is about the time when the Committees will be reconstituted.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if his attention has ever been drawn to a number of instances in which the local Food Committees brought to his notice personally the interference by officials over the head of the Food Committees in regard to distribution of rationed articles?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I do not understand the word "interference". The local officials are authorised to supervise the distribution by the Food Committees and to guide and advise them. I do not consider it interference if they do so.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that complaints have been made in a number of cases in which the district and local officials kept reserves of a large proportion of the essential controlled articles meant for respective areas in their own hands and allowed only a limited portion of articles for distribution through respective Food Committees?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I do not think that that would be correct. In some cases reserves have been kept, but they have been so kept with the knowledge of the Food Committees and in accordance with the rules. There may have been instances when more reserves have been kept than usual, and when brought to my notice, I have taken steps to rectify it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has received any representation from the Pabna Town Food Committee very recently complaining that the District Magistrate there interfered with the proper functioning of that Food Committee as soon as a member of the Muslim League and a member of this House was elected Chairman of that Food Committee instead of the nominee of the District Magistrate, namely, the Subdivisional Officer?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Not the Subdivisional Magistrate, but I have received complaints to the effect that the Pabna Town Food Committee has been superseded by the District Magistrate of Pabna. I am making an enquiry into it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Under what authority has the District Magistrate superseded the functioning of the duly constituted Pabna Town Food Committee?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The District Magistrate has authority so to supersede it, but it is obvious that although he may have the authority, he should not exercise it capriciously, and for that reason since a complaint has been brought to my notice, I am looking into the matter, and I shall try to ascertain whether he has had good reasons to do so or not.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware of any District or Subdivisional Food Committee of which there is no official Chairman although the Committees have been constituted as claimed in accordance with the instructions issued where there was no stipulation of putting official Chairman?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: So far as I am aware the Chairmen of the District Food Committee and the Subdivisional Food Committee are the District Magistrate and the Subdivisional Officer respectively.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is that the direction in the rule?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Yes, those are the directions.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the directions in the rules were definitely not for executive officers to become Chairmen, but rather to encourage the District Judge in the case of a District Food Committee to be made the Chairman if he was so willing?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, that is not so. The District Judge was encouraged to be the Chairman of the City or the Town Food Committee, but not of the district.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what principle has been laid down in the reservation of special supplies in the hands of District or Subdivisional Officers from out of which special supplies are to be given to local people, official and non-official?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I do not think, Sir, that there is any such provision that any special supplies should be maintained for officials and non-officials, but in certain matters like kerosene oil a certain percentage, something like 10 per cent., has been provided to be kept back in order to supply to industries and priorities like war-workers, students, and artisans and for special occasions.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in the district of Murshidabad both in regard to the town of Berhampore as well as in respect of towns like Lalbagh and Jiagunj-Azimganj a large number of tins of kerosene have been kept back from being distributed through the Food Committees and are supplied by the local officials not only to officials of Government but also to non-officials like Rai Bahadur Surendra Narayan Singha and Sripat Singh Dugar and the like, some of whom have no public duties to perform?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, Sir. I am not aware of it. If the honourable member asks me to do so, I shall make an enquiry.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that when one Commissioner of the Municipality of Jiaganj-Azimganj brought to the notice of the District Magistrate the irregularities being committed by the Town Food Committee of Jiaganj, he served an order on that Municipal Commissioner warning him under the Defence of India Rules not to raise any objection?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, Sir. I am not aware of it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government's attention has been drawn to a publication in the newspapers of Calcutta two or three days ago inviting attention to the irregularities in the distribution of kerosene oil and sugar in the Jiaganj-Azimganj Food Committee, and also inviting attention to this alleged order of the District Magistrate threatening to take action against that unfortunate Municipal Commissioner for having invited his attention to such irregularities?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, Sir. My attention has not been drawn to it, but I am aware of the fact that there is a tussle going on in that municipality between some local parties, and there have been all kinds of allegations made on one side or the other. I have not thought it of sufficient importance to enquire into the matter, but, as I have said, if the honourable member desires, I shall institute an enquiry.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister take note of it here and now and start enquiry as to why the District Magistrate issued such a threatening order?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I shall do so.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Thank you.

Mr. D. C. SMYTH-OSBOURNE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if mustard oil is being distributed on a ration basis?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Throughout the province?

Mr. D. C. SMYTH-OSBOURNE: I mean the Darjeeling district.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: We have not sufficient supplies of mustard oil to distribute on a ration basis throughout the province, but in the area from which the honourable member comes, that is, the Darjeeling district, mustard oil is being distributed on a ration basis in the municipalities.

Quota of kerosene oil and sugar for Birbhum district.

***35. Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the annual quota of kerosene oil for the non-essential population of the district of Birbhum;

(*b*) whether *per capita* supply for non-essential population is the same as in all districts of the Province;

(*c*) what is the total annual quota of sugar for the district of Birbhum;

(*d*) which is the annual requirement out of the quota of sugar as referred to in (*c*) for—

(*i*) Police Ration Stores,
(*ii*) Ration Stores for other Government employees, and
(*iii*) F.R.E. hospitals;

(*e*) what is the *per capita* supply of sugar in Birbhum for the population excepting those who are in receipt of rations from Ration Stores for police officers and men or other Government employees; and

(*f*) what is the *per capita* supply of sugar for those who receive ration of sugar from the Police Ration Stores or Ration Stores for the other Government employees?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) 93,408 tins.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) There is no fixed annual quota of sugar for this district. The quota fixed for the sugar year 1943-44 (i.e., December, 1943, to November, 1944) was 13,800 bags equivalent to 37,950 maunds.

(*d*) Annual requirements out of the quota of sugar as referred to in (*c*) for the following stores and hospitals are noted against each of them:—

	Mds.
(*i*) Police Ration Stores	493
(*ii*) Ration Stores for other Government employees ...	1,800
(*iii*) F.R.E. hospitals (all recently opened) ..	100

(*e*) 1½ ch. per month.

(*f*) Police Ration Stores—from 5 to 14 chataks per week.

Ration stores for the other Government employees—5 chataks per week on an average.

Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJEE: Is it not a fact that the people of the district of Birbhum were not supplied with 93,408 tins of kerosene oil during 1943-44?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am not aware of that.

Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJEE: With reference to answers (*e*) and (*f*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why there is this difference in the matter of *per capita* supply of sugar between Government employees and others?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I know that the difference is very obvious and is considerable. It seems to me that the amount of sugar is so little that even if we were to put the others on the same basis as 1 5/6 *chataks* per month there would not be any appreciable increase in the *per capita* allotment of sugar.

Retail price of "ata" sold at Suri.

*38 **Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the ex-storing agent price, at which retailers purchase *ata* at Suri (Birbhum);

(*ii*) the price at which retailers are allowed to sell *ata* to consumers; and

(*iii*) whether any quantity of *ata* was sold in auction from the godown of the storing agent at Suri (Birbhum) by the Assistant Director of Civil Supplies, Birbhum, or by any other officers of the Government?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*iii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what was the price per maund at which the *ata* was thus auction-sold to consumers by the auction-purchasers; and

(*ii*) whether the *ata* thus sold was examined before auction sale?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) (*i*) Rs.11-8 per maund.

(*ii*) Annas 5 per seer.

(*iii*) Two hundred and seventy maunds of *ata*, out of the consignment received at Suri on the 26th June, 1944, were sold in auction on the 13th September, 1944, from the godown of the storing agent at Suri by the Assistant Director, Civil Supplies, Birbhum, with the approval of the District Magistrate before deterioration started.

(*b*) (*i*) This *ata* was sold by the auction-purchaser at a rate not above the controlled rate.

(*ii*) Yes.

Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the controlled rate at which this quantity of *ata* was sold in auction?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The *ata* was not sold in auction at the controlled rate. The question was asked whether the auction-purchaser resold that *ata* to the consumers at any rate above the controlled rate and the answer is that he did not.

Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJEE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that this *ata* which was sold in auction at Rs. 6-8 per maund was resold to the consumers at Rs. 12-8 per maund?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: That might have been so. So long as he did not resell it to the consumers at any rate above the controlled rate, I can have no objection.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the *ata* was sold at Rs. 6-8 per maund?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It would appear that the officers took the view that deterioration had started and if it was not sold off and distributed, it would be a total loss.

Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJEE: If the deterioration had started why then was the *ata* sold in auction publicly for the use of consumers?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Deterioration was about to start. There was no off-take. Apparently the idea was to give that *ata* to the trade so that the trade might make special efforts to secure the off-take. Suppose we had not sold? It would have deteriorated and it would have been a total loss.

Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJEE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that 77 maunds of *ata* which had been declared as condemned was sold to some people who used it for fishes in the tank, as a result of which the fishes died in the tank?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I hope the fishes were given a decent burial. But I am not aware of that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that District Magistrates sometimes take the view that any question with respect to such supply matters of deterioration amounts to an offence being a prejudicial act within the meaning of the Defence of India Rules and threaten local gentlemen if they try to bring to his notice the dangers of forcing unwholesome food on the people?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It is far too general a statement. I don't think that District Magistrates can possibly take that view if they feel that the gentlemen bringing these facts to their notice act *bona fide*.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is now in a position to state what happened to the unwholesome *ata* which was declared as such after examination by the local Government Analyist at Berhampore in connection with which the Chairman of the municipality had to issue instructions not to have any of this *ata* sold to the townspeople and the District Magistrate issued several orders under the Defence of India Rules seeking to take away the powers of the Chairman of the municipality in this connection?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How do you connect the Berhampore matter with this?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Out of the previous answer about unwholesome food.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I don't allow that question.

Enquiry into the nurse-outrage allegation against the Subdivisional Officer of Kishoreganj.

*39. **Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that on the night of 17th August, 1944, Mayarani Biswas, a nurse of Kishoreganj, and Indurani Mitra, a nurse of Kishoreganj Destitute Hospital, were deputed to attend the wife of the Subdivisional Officer after her delivery, while they were on duty;

(*ii*) that they complained of attempts at outraging their modesty the same night by the Subdivisional Officer to the House Surgeon of the Hospital; and

(*iii*) that they subsequently sent a petition to that effect to the District Magistrate, the Commissioner of the Division, and the Hon'ble Chief Minister?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) if the Government has made an enquiry into the matter; and
(*ii*) if not, why not?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*)(*i*) It appears from the report of the House Surgeon, S. D. Hospital, Kishoreganj, dated the 17th October, 1944, that nurse Indurani Mitra was sent to Subdivisional Officer's bungalow to attend the wife of the Subdivisional Officer in absence of the Subdivisional Officer at 10 p.m. There is no record to show that Mayarani Biswas also was deputed.

(*ii*) No such report has been received.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*b*)(*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Does not arise.

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: With reference to reply (*a*)(*iii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action was taken on the petition?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government asked the District Magistrate to enquire into the allegations.

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: What was the finding of that report?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: After enquiry, it transpired that the allegations were *mala fide*.

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how they have come to know that on that night the Subdivisional Officer was absent from his house at 10 p.m.?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He was out when the nurse was deputed.

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he had been out on duty or only casually to escape the charge?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The matter was thoroughly enquired into and it was found that the nurse did not make any complaint on the night of the alleged occurrence and that after her dismissal from service for neglect of duty it was an afterthought and at the instigation of some mischief-moggers these allegations were subsequently made

Rai Sahib MONMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mayarani Biswas is a nurse of the Muslim Orphanage?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know. I ask for notice.

Rai Sahib MONMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will kindly enquire into the record of the Muslim Orphanage?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I submit, Sir, this question does not arise out of this question.

Rai Sahib MONMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on the night of the delivery of his wife, one nurse, Amiya Sen, was deputed to attend to his wife?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have said that Indurani Mitra and Mayarani Biswas were deputed.

Rai Sahib MONMOHAN DAS: Is it a fact that on the 16th night Amiya Sen was deputed?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have no information.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the dates when the petitions were sent to the District Magistrate, the Commissioner of the Division and the Chief Minister?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No petition was received by the Chief Minister. The petition of the nurse to the District Magistrate is dated 3rd September, 1944, and the letter received by the Chief Minister was not from the nurse but from the Provincial Hindu Mahasabha.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what occurred on the night of the 17th August, referred to, apart from the 17th October, 1944, mentioned in answer to question (*a*)(*i*)?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The allegation made by the nurse Indurani Mitra related to the occurrence of the 17th August, and her petition is dated 3rd September.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But this answer relates to the 17th of October and evidently there were other incidents. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any allegation was received by the District Magistrate from the complainant, Amiya Sen, who was a female nurse in the Kishoreganj Destitute Hospital relating to the incident of the night of 13th August, 1944?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No complaint apart from the complaint of Indurani Mitra and Mayarani Biswas was received.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Yes, there was certainly one from Amiya Sen. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there was a petition to this effect:—

"বিনীত নিবেদন এই যে ১৩।৮।৪৪ তারিখে রাত্রি অনুমান সাড়ে দশটার সময় লোক মারফত S. D. O. সাহেব আমাকে তাহার বাসায় ডাকিয়া পাঠায়। তখন আমার হাসপাতালে night duty ছিল। আমি বলি যে সেখানে বিনা অনুমতিতে আমি যাইতে পারি না।" (noise)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What are you reading from, Dr. Sanyal? I do not allow that question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in the petition submitted to the District Magistrate by Amiya Sen, dated the 1st of September, 1944, specific and definite allegations had been made complaining that on the 15th August, 1944, at about 10 o'clock, the Subdivisional Officer in his bunglow wanted to outrage her modesty in her house and that because of the complaint made by her on the 22nd August, 1944, she was dismissed?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The complaint was received from Srimati Amiya Sen, dated the 1st September, 1944, and received by the District Magistrate on the 3rd and altogether there were three complaints and the then District Magistrate asked the Additional Civil Surgeon to make an enquiry and he reported that all the allegations were false and that there was no basis for any of the allegations. When the complaint was received from the Hindu Mahasabha by the Chief Minister he had an enquiry made and the then District Magistrate personally enquired into the matter and he reported that the allegations were false and he went so far as to say that he considers the whole story is fabricated and false and has been brought in due to personal, communal and political reasons.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the enquiry was held and who were questioned besides the nurses and the Subdivisional Officer?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot give at length who were the actual persons but enquiries were made from the Surgeon in charge and the Additional Civil Surgeon who enquired into the matter and from other witnesses.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to the charge that the allegation was of a communal character, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the respective names of the complainants and the Subdivisional Officer and the community to which they belong?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The name of the Subdivisional Officer is Mr. Rizby and he is a Muslim.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What are the names of the complainants and what is the community they belong to?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The names of the complainants, I have already said, are Indurani Mitra and Mayarani Biswas.

(At this stage the next question was called.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, it is a very important question about the conduct of the Subdivisional Officer——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not here to discuss the conduct of the Subdivisional Officer.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, I will not allow this.

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Sir, it is a vital question and so more supplementaries should be allowed.

(In the midst of these Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali rose and began to read the reply to Starred Question No. 40.)

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, are you going to stifle the Opposition in this way?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, who is in possession of the House—myself or any other?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, this is not the first occasion: whenever Hindu women are outraged and molested, you and your predecessor, the Speaker, always behave in this way. We protest strongly against this. You have in all cases systematically shielded the Muslim officers—you and the Speaker. I do charge you with deliberate attempt to stop discussion on the conduct of the Muslim officials in this way.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, the Parliamentary Secretary, without being asked, volunteered a reply which was very provocative and he wanted to say that it was only a communal matter. By that he meant to say that these nurses could lower themselves to such a position that they would stake their honour to spite their communal grudge on the Subdivisional Officer. That is why some more questions have to be put to clarify the position and the intention of the Parliamentary Secretary in this regard.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I should like to know, Sir, whether you will allow further supplementary questions.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, I must say you are out of your balance.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Only to keep you in balance.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is about ten minutes that this question is going on. Supplementary questions in the Assembly do not mean cross-examination by lawyers as in a court. I am prepared to give you more time if the questions arise out of the replies.

Dr. Sanyal, you ought to have considered that at least I am sitting here not to indulge in communal matter or this or that. I hope you will withdraw the remark you have made. I will have no objection if you carry this question for another, say, 5 minutes or 10 minutes, but you will withdraw the remarks against the present occupant of the Chair and the Speaker.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I would most certainly withdraw my charges if there is no ground left for such charges and if you allow me supplementary questions I do withdraw.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you three minutes' time.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in the enquiry held after the Chief Minister's attempt to obtain open enquiry, the girls alleging the molestation were examined?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice whether they were examined afterwards or not.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what position this Subdivisional Officer holds in respect of this hospital to which these two nurses were attached?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the girls or any of the complainants were informed about the holding of the enquiry when this enquiry revealed that this was of a communal character and deliberately engineered to lower the reputation of the Subdivisional Officer?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot definitely say whether they were informed or not but the enquiry was conducted not once but more than once.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if all these petitions were filed after these nurses were dismissed from the hospital?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir; the complaints were received after dismissal.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the dismissal took place on the 22nd August when the complaint wac made to the Civil Surgeon of the district verbally?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir, no complaint was made by these complainants till after dismissal.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Government consider the desirability of ordering a judicial enquiry into the allegations made against the official?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir; Government are satisfied that these allegations are absolutely untrue.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether all these things have been engineered by the local Hindu Mahasabha after these two nurses have been dismissed and they have received their petitions after dismissal so that they may be reinstated in their jobs?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot say who were the persons responsible, but it is a fact that the complaint was received long after the dismissal and it is also on record that there were other interested persons who in order to buttress the case of the dismissed nurses put up these false allegations.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what facilities were given to these complainants to substantiate their case before the enquiring authority and whether witnesses cited by them were examined by the enquiry committee?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know what opportunities were given, but I presume opportunities must have been given by the Additional Civil Surgeon.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Questions over.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: On a point of privilege. This is an important local question of Mymensingh and I submit that this question be held over till tomorrow.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No.

(The House was at this stage adjourned for 15 minutes for prayer.)

(After adjournment.)

General Discussion of the Budget.

Maulvi ABDUR RAZZAK : মাননীয় ডেপুটী স্পীকার মহোদয়! বাংলার অর্থসচিব চলতি সনের ঘাটতি বাজেট পরিষদে উপস্থিত করিয়া ১ ঘণ্টাকাল বক্তৃতা দ্বারা তাহার কারণ বিশ্লেষণ করিতে যাইয়া যাহা ব্যাখ্যা করিয়াছেন বুদ্ধিমান ব্যক্তিমাত্রেই বুঝিতে পারিয়াছেন যে, তাহা হইলে বাজেটে এই বৎসর ১৪ কোটি টাকা ঘাটতি হইবে এবং গত বৎসরের ক্ষতিসহ যোগ করিলে উহার পরিমাণ হইবে ২২ কোটি এবং আগামী বৎসরের ক্ষতি ঐ সঙ্গে একত্র করিলে মোট ঘাটতির পরিমাণ হইবে ২৯ কোটি। ইহা হইতে পরিষ্কার বুঝা যাইতেছে যে সোণার বাংলা পাকিস্থান না হইয়া যে গোরস্থানে পরিণত হইবে তাহাতে কোন সন্দেহ নাই। কারণ, মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের বক্তৃতার সার অংশে ব্যয়সঙ্কোচের উপায় উদ্ভাবনের কোন কথারই উল্লেখ নাই। তিনি যে দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের উপর ট্যাক্সের পর ট্যাক্স বসাইয়াও আয়ব্যয়ের সামঞ্জস্য রাখিতে পারিলেন না ইহাতে তাঁহার যোগ্যতার বিশেষ পরিচয় পাওয়া গিয়াছে। কোন অনুপযুক্ত ব্যক্তির হাতে যদি কোন শাসনভার পড়িয়া যায় সে যেমন হতবুদ্ধি বা নিরুপায় হইয়া খরচ বাড়াইতে থাকে তেমনিভাবে সিভিল সাপ্লাই, কৃষি বিভাগের মেম্বর ও পার্লামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারী-গণের বেতন বৃদ্ধি ইত্যাদি বহু অতিরিক্ত খরচের হিসাব দেখাইয়া বাজেট উপস্থিত করিয়াছেন। ব্যয়সঙ্কোচ বা উচ্চপদস্থ কর্ম্মচারীদের মাহিনা কমান দূরের কথা নিজেদের বেতন বৃদ্ধির প্রস্তাব যে পরিষদে উপস্থিত করেন নাই ইহাই তাঁহার গৌরবের কথা। এমত অবস্থায় মন্ত্রিসভায় তাঁহাদের গদি লিকুইডেশনে দিয়া দেউলিয়া খাতায় নাম লিখাইয়া পলায়ন করা উচিত; নতুবা এই মন্ত্রি-সভা আর কিছুকাল গদি আঁকড়াইয়া বসিয়া থাকিলে আগামী বৎসরে এদেশের আবালবৃদ্ধবনিতা প্রত্যেক নরনারীর মাথা পিছু দেনার দায় ১০৲ টাকার কম পড়িবে বলিয়া মনে হয় না। যদি কোন স্বাধীন দেশে এই প্রকার শাসননীতি পরিচালিত হইত তবে দেশময় আন্দোলন করিয়া মন্ত্রীর গদি হইতে তাড়াইয়া দেওয়াত দূরের কথা তাঁহাদের পক্ষে প্রাণে বাঁচিয়া থাকা কষ্টকর হইত। পরাধীন দেশ বলিয়া লোকে সকলই সহ্য করিয়া যাইতেছে। এই মন্ত্রিসভা এবং তাঁহাদের সমর্থকগণের কার্য্যকলাপে ১৯৪৩ সালে দুর্ভিক্ষের করাল কবলে পড়িয়া এ দেশে ৩০ লক্ষ লোক না খাইয়া মারা গিয়াছে। পরাধীন দেশ বলিয়া তাহাতে কোন উচ্চবাচ্য হইল না কারণ মন্ত্রী মহোদয়গণ হইতে আরম্ভ করিয়া মেম্বর মহোদয়গণ—District Board, Union Board এবং Debt Settlement Boardএর মেম্বর বা তাহাদের কেরাণী পর্য্যন্ত কেহ না খাইয়া মারা যায় নাই; মারা গিয়াছে কাহারা? না, যাহাদের ভোটে তাঁহারা মন্ত্রিত্বের গদি ও মেম্বর পদ লাভ করিয়াছেন তাহারাই না খাইয়া মারা গিয়াছে। মন্ত্রিসমর্থক মেম্বর মহোদয়গণ নিজ স্বার্থের খাতিরে এই সব অপকর্ম্ম করিয়া যাইতেছেন। যদি ঐ সময় এই

দেশকে দুর্ভিক্ষ দেশ বলিয়া ঘোষণা করা যাইত তবে এই সোনার বাংলা ধনে-প্রাণে উৎসন্ন যাইত না। বড়ই দুঃখের বিষয় আজ মন্ত্রী মহাশয় ঐ মর্ম্মান্তিক সময়ে নির্লজ্জভাবে অনুক্লিষ্ট ব্যক্তিদিগকে দৈনিক ১ ছটাক খিচুড়ী খাওয়ানর খরচটা বাজেটে ঘাটতির বড় কারণ হিসাবে দেখাইতেছেন। ইহাতে তিনি কোন লজ্জাবোধ করিতেছেন না! বর্ত্তমানে দেশে বস্ত্রসঙ্কট দেখা দিয়াছে ইহা ঐ দরিদ্র জনসাধারণ ভোগ করিতেছে। এই মন্ত্রিসভা তাঁহাদের দলগত সমর্থকদের দ্বারা নানাবিধ কোম্পানী খুলিয়া বহু কাপড় চোরাবাজারে বিক্রী করার উদ্দেশ্যে লুকাইয়া রাখিয়াছে। এই মন্ত্রিসভার কাপড় কণ্ট্রোল করার অজুহাতে অতিলোভী মুনফাখোর ব্যবসায়িগণ বাকী সমস্ত কাপড় লুকাইয়া রাখায় মফঃস্বলে কাপড় একেবারে দুর্ম্মূল্য ও দুষ্প্রাপ্য হইয়াছে। প্রত্যহ খবরের কাগজে প্রতিবাদ করা সত্ত্বেও এই মন্ত্রিসভা তাহার কোন প্রতীকার করিতে পারিতেছেন না। দলগতভাবে যাহা কিছু কণ্ট্রোল দোকান খোলা হইয়াছে ঐ দোকানে কাপড় কখন যায় বা কোথায় বিক্রী হয় সে বিষয়ে জনসাধারণ মোটেই অবগত নহেন। ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডে যে কাপড় দেওয়া হয় তাহাও লীগের ঘণ্ডাগুণ্ডারা ভাগ বাটোয়ারা করিয়া লইয়া যায়; গরীবের অদৃষ্টে জুটে কোথায়? সে দিন যোগী বাজারে লটারী দ্বারা কাপড় বিতরণ করা হইল, বাজারের ব্যবসায়িগণ তাহাদের সমস্ত পরিবারের নামে টিকেট দিয়া সব কাপড় তাহারাই লইয়া গেল, জনসাধারণ ২-৪ খানা পাইল কিনা সন্দেহ; এমন কি মুর্দ্দার কাফনের কাপড় পাওয়াও দুষ্কর হইয়াছে। কাফনের অভাবে সমস্ত দিনের মধ্যেও শব দফন করা সম্ভবপর হইতেছে না; অনেক ক্ষেত্রে আদৌ নূতন কাপড় জুটাইতে না পারায় পুরাতন কাপড় দ্বারা দফন কার্য্য সমাধা করিতে বাধ্য হইতেছে। এইরূপ অনেক খবর আমাদের গোচরে আসিয়াছে। ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্রত্যেক প্রদেশের জন্য একটা "কোটা" ঠিক করিয়াছেন, তাহাতে বাংলার ভাগে মাথা প্রতি পড়িয়াছে বৎসরে ১০ গজ; পাঞ্জাব পাইয়াছে ১৮ গজ; টেক্সটাইল কমিশনার ঐ ১০ গজ হইতে কাটিয়া কিছু অংশ বাহিরে চালান করার পর যাহা কিছু বাকি থাকে তাহাও ঘুষখোরের ও চোরাবাজারের উৎপাতে ঠিকভাবে পাইতেছি না।

১৯৪৩ সনে এই মন্ত্রিসভা কর্ত্তৃক ধান-চাউল কণ্ট্রোল করার অজুহাতে অতিলোভী মুনফাখোর ব্যবসায়িগণ আটা-চাউল লুকাইয়া রাখিয়াছিল; তাহার প্রমাণ হাটে-বাজারে বিরাজমান। বর্ত্তমানে কাপড় লইয়াও সেই লীলাখেলা আরম্ভ হইয়াছে; তাহার প্রতীকার করে কে? কবির বাক্য অক্ষরে অক্ষরে সত্য হইল—

معتسب کر می خورد معذور دارد مست را*

অর্থাৎ মন্ত্রিসভা হইতে সুরু করিয়া নিম্নের অফিসার কণ্ট্রোলের দোকানদার—সকলে এক-যোগে ঘুষখুরি চুরিতে লিপ্ত; জনসাধারণ প্রতীকার পাইবে কোথায়? এইভাবে আর কিছুদিন চলিতে থাকিলে ধর্ম্মপ্রাণ মোসলমান নামাজ হইতে বিরত থাকিতে বাধ্য হইবে এবং দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের উলঙ্গ থাকা বা গাছের ছাল পরিয়া লজ্জা নিবারণ ভিন্ন গত্যন্তর থাকিবে না। ইহার প্রতীকার কখনও এই মহাপুরুষগণ হইতে আশা করা যাইতে পারে না; কারণ, লীগের যাহারা মুরুব্বি তাঁহারা কেহ হইতেছেন শিয়া, কেহ কাদিয়ানি, কেহ ওহাবি—চাল-চলনে ফিরিঙ্গি, রোজা নামাজের ধার ধারেন না; যদিই দুই একজন কেহ থাকিয়া থাকেন তাঁহারা কেহ জমিদার, কেহ নওয়াব; তাহাদের গরীবের রোজা-নামাজের কথা চিন্তা করার অবকাশ কোথায়? এমতাবস্থায় কাপড় যে চাউল ও আটার ন্যায় পচিয়া বাহির হইবে না তাহা বলা কঠিন। মন্ত্রী মহাশয় তাঁহার বাজেটে বিগত ২ বৎসরের খাদ্যশস্য যোগান বাবত ১৭ কোটি টাকা লোকসান হইয়াছে বলিয়া দেখাইয়াছেন। তাহার কারণ বিশ্লেষণ করিতে গিয়া বলিয়াছেন অধিক মূল্যে জিনিষ কিনিয়া অল্প মূল্যে বিক্রয় করায় এবং কিছু জিনিস পচিয়া নষ্ট হওয়ায় এইরূপ হইয়াছে। কিন্তু পাঞ্জাব হইতে ১৩৲ টাকা মণ দরে আটা ক্রয় করিয়া ২০৲ টাকা হিসাবে বিক্রয় করা সত্ত্বেও লোকসান হয় কেমন করিয়া তাহা দেশবাসীর ভাবিবার কথা। তাঁহাদের অংশীদার দালালেরা যাহা আটক করিয়া রাখিয়াছিল তাহা পচার পর সাবেক নিরিখে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী আবার কিনিয়া সাপ্লাই ডিপার্টমেণ্টে

পাঠাইয়াছেন। বর্ত্তমানে তাহা কিছু কম মূল্যে বিক্রী হইতে পারে বটে কিন্তু তাতেও চোরাবাজীর সীমা নাই ; কারণ, ফেণী সাব্‌ডিভিসনের সাপ্লাই অফিস হইতে কাহারও অজানামেতে ১৪ হাজার মণ আটা ।।০ আনা মণ দরে বিক্রী হইয়াছে। বর্ত্তমানে বাজারে ১৩৲-১২৲ টাকা দরে অহোরহঃ বিক্রী হইতেছে। জন কয়েক অফিসার ও দালালগণ যোগাযোগ করিয়া গোপনে বিক্রী করার ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছে। আমি এ সম্বন্ধে এই পরিষদে নিরপেক্ষ তদন্ত করার দাবী জানাইতেছি।

আজ কেবল কাপড় নয়, চিনি ও আবশ্যকীয় প্রত্যেক জিনিসের ঐরূপ অবস্থা দাঁড়াইয়াছে। গ্রাম-দেশে রোগীর পথ্য এবং ঔষধের অনুপাণের জন্য চিনি পাওয়া যাইতেছে না ; কিন্তু কলিকাতাতে অহোরহঃ চা পান করার জন্য চিনির কোন অভাব দেখা যায় না। বিবাহ-সাদীর আমোদ-উৎসবের সময় যথেষ্ট চিনি পাওয়া যায় কিন্তু গ্রাম-দেশে সাদী-বিবাহ দূরের কথা মৃত্যুর সময়ও একটু চিনির জল মুখে দেওয়া অনেকের অদৃষ্টে জুটিতেছে না ; ইহাই হইল মোস্‌লেম লীগ পাকিস্থানপন্থী মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর স্বরূপ।

কেরোসিন তৈলের কোন বালাই নাই। পল্লী অঞ্চলে দরিদ্র জনসাধারণ বিনা আলোতে অন্ধকারে জীবনযাপন করিতে বাধ্য হইয়া অভ্যস্ত হইতেছে ; তদুপরি তরীতরকারী, শাকসব্জী, ডিম, মাছ যাহা খাইতে বাঙালী-অভ্যস্ত এবং যাহা তাহাদের প্রধান পুষ্টিকর খাদ্য তাহা দুর্ম্মূল্য ও দুষ্প্রাপ্য হওয়ায় দিনের পর দিন বাঙালী স্বাস্থ্যহীন হইয়া ম্যালেরিয়া জ্বর, কালাজ্বর, কলেরা, বসন্ত ইত্যাদি মহামারীতে আক্রান্ত হইয়া দলে দলে মারা যাইতেছে। মন্ত্রিসভা তাহার কোন প্রতীকার করিতে পারিতেছেন না। অর্থ সচিব মহাশয় তাঁহার বক্তৃতায় মৎস্যের চাষ ও "অধিক শস্য ফলাও"এর পরিকল্পনার কথাই প্রকাশ করিয়াছেন, আবার তাহাও লোক অভাবে হইয়া উঠিতেছে না। ফলে ইহা যে তিনি কার্য্যেব পরিণত করিতে পারিবেন তাহাও প্রকাশ করেন নাই। এ দিকে আমরা দেখিতেছি যে বাঙালী মরিয়া শেষ হইতেছে এবং বাংলা দেশ শ্মশানে পরিণত হইতে বসিয়াছে—

تا تریاق از عراق اورد شود مار گزیده مرده بود

অর্থাৎ সাপের ঔষধ এরাক হইতে আমদানী করা সাপকে সাপকাটা ব্যক্তি মৃত্যুমুখে পতিত হইবে—বাংলার অবস্থাও আজ তাই হইয়াছে।

মন্ত্রী মহাশয় তাঁহার বক্তৃতায় বলিয়াছেন যে কৃষির উন্নতিকল্পে ২০০ stud bulls বিতরণ দ্বারা গোজাতির উন্নতি সাধিত হইলে কৃষকের উন্নতি হইবে ; সার, বীজ ইত্যাদি বিতরণ করার নিমিত্ত গুদাম স্থাপন ইত্যাদি বহু পরিকল্পনার কথা তিনি উল্লেখ করিয়াছেন। এই সব কোথায় এবং কখন কার্য্যে পরিণত হইবে তাহার কোন ঠিকানা আমরা পাইতেছি না। বর্ত্তমানে কৃষককুল গরু ও চাকরের অভাবে চাষ-আবাদ বন্ধ করিয়া বসিয়া থাকিতে বাধ্য হইতেছে। মন্ত্রী মহোদয় চাষীদিগকে গরু কেনার জন্য ১ কোটি টাকা ধার দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থার কথা উল্লেখ করিয়াছেন। গরুর মূল্য যেভাবে বাড়িয়া গিয়াছে তাহাতে এক ১ কোটি টাকায় কয়টী গরু পাইবে তাহা এই অনভিজ্ঞ মন্ত্রীর দল ভাবিয়াছেন কি? গত বৎসর ১৬৲ টাকা মণ দরে যে বীজ ধান্য ধার দেওয়া হইয়াছিল তাহা ছিল নানারূপ মিশান ও নিকৃষ্ট। বীজ হওয়া ত দূরের কথা উহা খাওয়ারও উপযোগী ছিল না ; আবার আদায়ের প্রণালী ছিল ১ মণ ধান্যের পরিবর্ত্তে ১।।০ মণ ধান্য অথবা তাহার মূল্য ২৪৲ টাকা। যখন ধান্যের মূল্য অতি মাত্রায় হ্রাস পাইল তখন এই মন্ত্রিসভা ধান্য না লইয়া ২৪৲ টাকা হারে মূল্য আদায়ের ব্যবস্থা করিলেন। আমি মাননীয় কৃষি-মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে নোয়াখালী জেলার বিশেষতঃ ফেণী মহকুমার চাষীর পক্ষ হইতে অভিযোগ জানাই যে নিরীহ কৃষকগণ ৬ মণ ধান্য বিক্রয় করিয়া ঐ টাকা শোধ করিতে বাধ্য হইতেছে। তখন তিনি বলিলেন যে আমি টাকা লওয়া বন্ধ করিয়া দিতেছি এবং টাকা আদায় হইয়া থাকিলে ফেরৎ দিতে আদেশ দিতেছি। জানি না ঐ আদেশ কোথায় গেল, কিন্তু ঐ টাকা এখনও ফেরত পাওয়া যায় নাই এবং পাইবার কোন লক্ষণও এ যাবৎ দেখা যাইতেছে না ; তবুও কিনা এই মন্ত্রিসভা নির্লজ্জভাবে বলিতেছেন যে, বীজ বিতরণ বাবদ ক্ষতি এই ঘাটতির কারণ হইয়া

দাঁড়াইয়াছে। মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের বক্তৃতায় প্রকাশ পাইয়াছে যে বাংলা দেশে যুদ্ধ-পরিস্থিতির দরুণ এই বিরাট ঘাটতি হইয়াছে! মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমি আপনার যোগে মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে ৩টি suggestions দিতেছি :—

(১) এ দেশে যুদ্ধ কেবল বাংলা দেশ রক্ষার জন্য হইতেছে না, সমস্ত ভারতবর্ষকে রক্ষার জন্য বাংলা দেশ যুদ্ধের বাঁটি হইয়া দাঁড়াইয়াছে, অতএব ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্ট এই সমস্ত ক্ষতি বহন করিতে বাধ্য; মন্ত্রী মহোদয় ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্টের সহিত লেখাপড়া করিয়া এই টাকা আদায়ের ব্যবস্থা করুন, অন্যথা গদী ছাড়িয়া দিন, আমরা তাহার অন্য ব্যবস্থা বিহিত করিব।

(২) মন্ত্রী মহোদয় জুট রেগুলেশনের কথা তাঁহার বক্তৃতায় উল্লেখ করিয়াছেন। আমি তাঁহাকে অনুরোধ জানাইতেছি যে, যদি পাটের সর্ব্ব নিম্ন দর বাঁধিয়া দেন তবে বিদেশ হইতে বহু কোটি টাকা অবাধে এদেশে আমদানী হইবে এবং ঐ সময় পাট কণ্ট্রোল করিলে অনায়াসে ২০-৩০ কোটি টাকা বাংলা সরকার আয় করিতে পারিবেন যাহা বর্ত্তমানে শ্বেতাঙ্গ প্রভুরা নিরাপদে ভোগ করিতেছেন। ঐ টাকা দ্বারা এই ক্ষতিপূরণ করা যাইবে।

(৩) যুদ্ধ-পরিস্থিতির পূর্ব্বে বাংলা দেশের ব্যাঙ্কসমূহের কত balance ছিল এবং বর্ত্তমান সময়ে ঐ ব্যাঙ্কসমূহের balance কত দাঁড়াইয়াছে তাহার সামঞ্জস্য করিয়া বাকী টাকা সিজ করিলে বাংলা সরকারের এই বিপাক কাটিয়া যাইতে পারে।

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়! মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের বাজেটে এবার মোসলমানী ধর্ম্মশিক্ষা বা এছলামিয়া মাদ্রাসার সাহায্য বাবত কোন টাকার বরাদ্দ না দেখিয়া অবাক হইতে হইল, কারণ যাঁহারা মাদ্রাসায় পড়ান বা পড়েন তাঁহাদের অবস্থা সাধারণতঃ সচ্ছল নহে। বাংলার খাঁটি মোস্‌লেম লীগ মন্ত্রিসভা তাঁহাদের সাহায্যের জন্য কোন টাকা যে বরাদ্দ করেন নাই তাহার এক মাত্র কারণ এই হইতে পারে যে, বর্ত্তমানে জমিয়তে ওলামা বাংলায় সজাগ হইয়া উঠিয়াছে, রাজনৈতিক ক্ষেত্রে লীগের সহিত প্রতিদ্বন্দ্বিতা জানাইতেছে এবং লীগ-মন্ত্রিসভা তাহাদিগকে দমাইবার জন্য এই নীতি অবলম্বন করিয়াছেন, অথবা লীগের সহিত উহাদের কোন ধর্ম্মনৈতিক মতভেদ থাকিতে পারে, কারণ লীগ শিয়া প্রভাবান্বিত আর মাদ্রাসাসমূহ ছুন্নতুল জমাত অবলম্বী, এবং সম্ভবতঃ ইহাই মূল কারণ।

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়! আমি বসিবার পূর্ব্বে আপনার যোগে মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে জিজ্ঞাসা করিতেছি যে তিনি বাজেটে যে সাফাই গাহিয়াছেন তাহা সব সত্য কিনা। আমার মনে হয় ইহার বহু অংশে মিথ্যা নিহিত রহিয়াছে। বাংলার মন্ত্রিসভা যে এরূপভাবে মিথ্যা বলিতে পারে তাহা আমি কখনও চিন্তা করিতে পারি নাই। তাহার প্রমাণ স্বরূপ বলিতেছি যে গত ১৬ই ফেব্রুয়ারী ১৯৪৫ তারিখের Unstarred Questionএ মাননীয় খাঁ বাহাদুর হাজি বদি আহম্মদ চৌধুরী সাহেব জানিতে চাহিয়াছিলেন যে চট্টগ্রাম ডিভিসনে নোয়াখালী জেলার ফেণী সাব্‌-ডিভিসনে, কুমিল্লা জেলার চাঁদপুর সাবডিভিসনে ও সদর মহকুমায় এবং চট্টগ্রাম জেলার সদর এবং কক্সবাজারে মিলিটারীর জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট কোন জমিন acquire করিয়াছে কিনা, এবং ঐ জমিনের মালিকগণ বাড়ি-ঘর, গাছপালা ইত্যাদির ক্ষতিপূরণ কিভাবে পাইতেছে। তদুত্তরে মন্ত্রী মহোদয় জানাইয়াছেন যে চট্টগ্রাম ভিন্ন অন্য কোন জেলায় কোন জমি acquire করা হয় নাই। আমি পরিষদের মেম্বর মহোদয়গণের নিকট অনুরোধ জানাইতেছি তাঁরা যেন তদন্ত করিয়া দেখেন যে ফেণীতে ৪টী বড় বড় মিলিটারী ক্যাম্প ও ৪টা এরোড্রোম এবং বহু মিলিটারী কারখানা স্থাপন করিয়াছে আর তাহার ফলে লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক মাঠে-ঘাটে অতি কষ্টে জীবন যাপন করিতেছে, উপযুক্তভাবে কোন ক্ষতি পূরণ পাইতেছে না। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী ছোহরওয়ার্দী সাহেব ও মাননীয় মন্ত্রী স্যার নাজিমুদ্দীন ফেণী ভিজিট উপলক্ষে এরোপ্লেনে ফেণী এরোড্রোমে নামেন। সেখানে ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট বোর্ডের ভোট canvass করেন এবং বলেন যে কোন জমি acquire করা হয় নি। বোধ করি সেই খবর সম্বন্ধে তাঁহারা অজ্ঞ। সেখানে হাজার হাজার গ্রাম acquire

করিয়া লইয়াছে। অথচ মন্ত্রী মহোদয় বলিয়াছেন চট্টগ্রামেই কেবল হইয়াছে। তাঁহারা ফেণীর খবর রাখেন না। এই ভাবে মন্তিত্ব না করিয়া তাঁহাদের ছাড়িয়া দেওয়া উচিত।

Mr. KAMAL KRISHNA ROY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহোদয় তাঁর আলোচ্য বাজেট বাণীর প্রারম্ভেই আমাদের স্মরণ করিয়ে দিয়েছেন তিনি গত বারে এ বছরের বাজেট রচনায় গতানুগতিকতার পন্থা পরিত্যাগ ক'রে যে ব্যতিরেক নীতি অবলম্বন করেছিলেন এবারেও আগামীবর্ষের বাজেট রচনায় সেই নীতিরই অনুসরণ করেছেন কারণ স্বরূপ বলেছেন তাঁর বিশ্বাস, এই ব্যবস্থায় বাংলার দুর্ভিক্ষ দমনে, বাংলার পুনর্গঠনে বাংলার পুনর্জীবন দানে মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর ঐকান্তিক অন্তর-ব্যথার মর্ম্মকথা বুঝবার পক্ষে সদস্যদের সুবিধা হবে।

চক্রবৃদ্ধি হারে ক্রমবর্দ্ধমান ঋণের বোঝায় বোঝাই করা বাজেট-ব্যবস্থার বরাদ্দগুলির মধ্য থেকে যাঁরা পরিষদের বাহিরে রয়েছেন তাঁরাও কি কোন সান্ত্বনা বা প্রেরণা পান? তাঁর মতে সায় না দিয়ে তাঁর দেওয়া "বুঝে" না বুঝে অবুঝ বাঙালী তাই তাঁর তথাকথিত "বঙ্গ গঠন বাজেট" ব্যবস্থার আখ্যা দিয়েছে "বঙ্গবধ বাজেট" ব্যবস্থা। ভাবপ্রবণ জাতি ব'লে বাঙালীর দেশ-বিদেশে অখ্যাতি বা সুখ্যাতি আছে। একান্ত অন্নাভাব, অর্থাভাব, বস্ত্রাভাব, খাদ্যাভাব প্রভৃতি অশেষবিধ অভাবের অনন্ত শয্যায় শায়িত বাঙালী আলোচ্য মারাত্মক বাজেট-ব্যবস্থার মধ্য হ'তে তার স্বভাবসুলভ মজ্জাগত ভাবপ্রবণতার মহাকাব্য রচনা করবার যে উপাদানের সন্ধান পেয়ে "বঙ্গবধ" কাব্য লিখতে সুরু ক'রেছে তার গৌরচন্দ্রিকা আমি আশা করি আমাদের আলোচনার পথে প্রচুর আলোক সম্পাত করবে এই মনে ক'রে সেই গৌরচন্দ্রিকাটী আপনাদের সমক্ষে নিবেদন কর্‌ছি—

বঙ্গবধ কাব্য।

প্রথম সর্গ।

"ঘাটতির ঘানিতে ঘুরি কমজোরী নিরর্থ সচিব,
প্রভুপাদ শ্রীমদ্ গোঁসাই
গলদে ঘামিয়া যবে,
প্রবেশিলা পরিষদ ঘরে, ঘোর চোখে—
করিবারে পেশ বাংলার
আয়-ব্যয় বরাদ্দের বার্ষিকী বাজেট—
কহ দেবি ভোটেশ্বরি! কলিকুণ্ডলিনী!
কস্‌রতকুশল সেরা কোন্ সুচতুর,
চোরাচীন তত্ত্ববিদ্ বালকপ্রবরে
করি কর্ণধার মন্ত্রিকুলশিরোমণি
সচিব প্রধান,
সাহেবসহায় সার নাজিম তখন
ভাসাইলা ঘণধরা, জরাজীর্ণ
বাজেট তরণী
তরঙ্গসঙ্কুল সেই সশঙ্কিল সুগভীর
ভোট-পারাবারে,
হায় রে যেমতি মজ্জমান বিপন্ন নাবিক,
সম্বলিয়া শেষে কলার ভেলায়,
ইচ্ছে উত্তরিতে বাত্যাবিতাড়িত, রুদ্ররূপা
ক্রুদ্ধ ক্ষুব্ধ গর্জ্জমান প্রলয়-পয়োধি।

কহ, সাথী হতে সে পাড়ির পথে
আর কোন কোন দাঁড়ি সাহস সঞ্চরি,
ত্বরায় তরীতে উঠে সারি গান ধরি ;
অতীব সংক্ষেপে কহ সে বারতা।
রেখো মনে ইহা নয় দ্বাপর বা ত্রেতা,
বলিবার কথা অবাধে বলিয়া যাবে
ব্যাস বা বাল্মিকী অষ্টাদশ পর্ব্বে, কিম্বা সপ্তকাণ্ড ধরি, পয়েণ্ট অব্ অর্ডারে উঠি
টুঁটি টিপি ধরিবে না কেউ।
এ যে ঘোর কলিকাল !
কণ্ট্রোলের কাঁচি ফুটি প্রতি পদক্ষেপে
স্মরণ করায়ে দিবে কালের মাহাত্ম্য।
কথা ত দূরের কথা,
অশন বসন সেও শাসনে শাসিত, একালে।
বিস্তারি বর্ণিলে জ্বলিবে সাঁঝের বাতি
নিতান্ত সকালে।
তাই দেবি ! কহ সংক্ষেপিয়া,
ইঙ্গিতে, ভঙ্গীতে কিম্বা চিত্রেতে রঙ্গিয়া।"

ডেপুটী স্পীকার মহোদয়! Special Branchএর বা বিশেষ বিভাগের সবিশেষ খরদৃষ্টি পড়ায় কাব্যটীর বাকী সর্গগুলি বর্ত্তমানে আপনার নিকট উপস্থিত করতে পারলাম না ; তাঁরা সেটা নিয়ে গিয়েছেন ; কাজেই এখন নীরস গদ্যে আমার বক্তব্যটুকু বলতে হবে।

মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের তথাকথিত বঙ্গগঠন বাজেটের শ্রবণ, পঠন, মনন ইত্যাদির পর ধ্যানের অবস্থায় এসে দেখতে পাওয়া যাবে তাঁর বক্ষ বিস্ফোরিত বাজেটে যে সকল কাজের কথার উল্লেখ ক'রে তিনি ঋণের বাধা ভুলে কিঞ্চিৎ পুলকিত হবার প্রয়াস পেয়েছেন সেই কাজগুলির প্রকৃত স্বরূপ সম্বন্ধে মতামত প্রকাশ করতে হ'লে বলতে হয় যে সেটা বাজেটের "ট" বাদ দিয়ে যা থাকে তাই, অর্থাৎ "বাজে"। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় এবং তাঁর সুরে পোঁ ধরার সাঙ্গ-পাঙ্গেরা বলবেন—কি ! আমরা দুর্ভিক্ষ দমনে এত টাকা দিয়েছি, পুনর্গঠনে এত টাকা দিয়েছি, ফলাও কোরে খাদ্য ফলনের বিজ্ঞাপনে কত টাকা খরচ করেছি, মুরগী পুষেছি, ঘাঁড় দেগেছি, আর সব কিনা "বাজে"? "বাজে" বলাতে কানের ভিতর বাণের মত বাজ্‌ছে বুঝছি কিন্তু একটু হিসাব ক'রে দেখুন দেখি বিভিন্ন নামে, বিভিন্ন পদে সরকারী চাকরীর দাগ দেওয়া শত শত চাকরিয়ারূপী উদমো ঘাঁড়ের বিবিধ উৎপাতে উৎপীড়িত হওয়া ব্যতিরেকে গ্রামের জনসাধারণ আর কোন কাজের প্রমাণের অস্তিত্ব দেখতে পান কি? প্রথমতঃ ধরা যাক দুর্ভিক্ষ দমন ;—মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় তাঁর বাজেট বাণীর এক স্থানে এই প্রচেষ্টার উল্লেখ ক'রে বলছেন—"It is estimated that no less than 18 lakhs of people have been benefited by this measure and the expenditure involved is of the order of 80 lakhs" "অর্থাৎ ১৮ লক্ষ লোককে এক বছরে ৮০ লক্ষ টাকা সাহায্য দেওয়া হয়েছে ; হিসাবে গড় মাথা-পিছু বছরে ৪৷৷০ টাকা, দৈনিক কত পড়বে শুভঙ্কর রায়ের আর্য্যায় কুলিয়ে উঠে না ; এর উপর আবার দুই লোকে বলে যে সরকারী এজেণ্টদের অন্ততঃ আট আনা কমিশন বাদ দিতে হবে। যে মহাদুর্ভিক্ষে সরকারী রিপোর্ট অনুসারে বাংলার ৩০ লক্ষের উপর মানুষ অনাহারে মরেছে, যে বাংলার ভিতর আজিও অন্ততঃ ২ কোটি লোক অনাহারে প্রতি মুহূর্ত্তে মরণের মুখে এগিয়ে চলেছে তার ১৮ লক্ষ লোককে মাথা পিছু গড়ে মবলক্ ৪৷৷০ টাকা দান—একটা দানের মত দান, রাজকীয় ব্যাপার, কলির রাজসূয় যজ্ঞ, দুর্ভিক্ষ দমনে সরকারী রিলিফ প্রচেষ্টার ঐকান্তিকতার "ইহ বাহ্য"—তার আগের কথা কইতে হয়।

ডেপুটী স্পীকার মহোদয়! বাঁকুড়া জেলার দুর্ভিক্ষের ব্যয়-বরাদ্দের কথা বলি। স্থানীয় কর্ম্মচারীরা কিরূপ করিৎ-কর্ম্মা তার পরিচয় পাবেন আমার এ Sessionএর প্রথম দিনের প্রশ্নের উত্তর থেকে। বাঁকুড়ায় ১৯৪৪-৪৫ সনের দুর্ভিক্ষের খয়রাতী দান বাবত এক বছরের জন্য বরাদ্দ হয়েছিল ২৪,৩০০৲ টাকা; গত অক্টোবর মাস পর্য্যন্ত খরচ হয়েছে ৫,০১১৲। বাঁকুড়া জেলা স্বাভাবিক অবস্থাতেই দুর্ভিক্ষের জেলা ব'লে পরিচিত। সেখানেও যদি গত মহাদুর্ভিক্ষের পর সামান্য বরাদ্দের ৫ ভাগের ১ ভাগও খরচ করবার প্রবৃত্তি না হয় তবুও কি মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর জয়ধ্বনি দিতে হবে!

এই ত গেল দুর্ভিক্ষ দমনের কথা। এর পর পুনর্গঠন-প্রচেষ্টার স্বরূপ শুনুন। এই বাঁকুড়া জেলাতেই দুঃস্থ শিল্পী সম্প্রদায়কে সাহায্য করবার জন্য বরাদ্দ হয়েছিল ১,০০,০০০৲ কিন্তু অক্টোবর পর্য্যন্ত খরচ করেছেন ৩৮,৮৫০৲ টাকা। আপনাদের আমি এ কথা স্মরণ করিয়ে দিতে চাই যে শুধু একটী জেলা হিসাবে বাংলার আর কোন জেলায় এত বিভিন্ন প্রকার শিল্পী সম্প্রদায় নাই; তার প্রয়োজনের তুলনায় ১ লক্ষ টাকা অতি নগণ্য। তবুও সেখানে বরাদ্দের ৩ ভাগের ১ ভাগও খরচ করেন নাই। বাঁকুড়ায় মাছের চাষের জন্য জীর্ণ পুষ্করিণী উদ্ধারের কথা মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহাশয় তাঁর বাজেট-বাণীতে উচ্চ কণ্ঠে ঘোষণা করেছেন; কিন্তু তিনি জানেন কি যে পুষ্করিণী সংস্কারের বরাদ্দ ৫,৮২,৬৮৮৲ টাকার মধ্যে গত অক্টোবর পর্য্যন্ত মাত্র ১,৮৫,৮০৬৲ টাকা কিছু কাজ হয়ে এবং বাকীটা scheme হয়ে সরকারী দপ্তরখানায় মাছের ডিম ছাড়ছে? এই হ'ল বাংলার পুনর্গঠন, পুনর্জীবন, বাংলার আবার শস্যশ্যামলা রূপ ফিরিয়ে আনার প্রচেষ্টা। গত বৎসর যেমন বলেছিলাম সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীদের অযোগ্যতার কথা, আজও সেই কথাই স্মরণ করিয়ে দিচ্চে। তাঁদের অযোগ্যতা, অক্ষমতা এবং গাফিলতীর ইহাই চরম দৃষ্টান্ত নয়;—আমার বলার সময় পূর্ব্বেই শেষ হয়েছে, বাড়তি সময় দেওয়ার জন্য আন্তরিক ধন্যবাদ।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: মাননীয় ডেপুটী স্পীকার মহোদয়! আজ বাংলার ১৯৪৫-৪৬ সালের বাজেট সম্বন্ধে মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহোদয় যে বক্তৃতা করিয়াছেন সে সম্বন্ধে ২।৪টী কথা আমাকে বলিতে হইবে। আমাকে এ কথা দুঃখের সহিত জানাইতে হইতেছে যে অনেক সভ্য পূর্ব্বেই বক্তৃতা করিয়াছেন এবং বিভিন্ন বিভাগের আয়-ব্যয় সম্বন্ধে আলোচনা হইতেছে, কিন্তু ঐ সকল বিভাগের ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী কেহই এখানে উপস্থিত নাই; এমন কি, তাঁহাদের শাখা প্রশাখা সেক্রেটারীরা পর্য্যন্ত উপস্থিত নাই। কাজেই আমাদের সব কথা অরণ্যে রোদন মাত্র। আমি ডেপুটী স্পীকার মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করি তিনি যেন ভবিষ্যতে অন্ততঃপক্ষে প্রত্যেক বিভাগের সেক্রেটারীরা যাহাতে উপস্থিত থাকেন তাহার ব্যবস্থা করেন। আগামী কল্য হইতে বাংলার শ্রেষ্ঠ নেতাগণ এখানে প্রত্যেক বিভাগের সম্বন্ধে বক্তৃতা দিবেন; তাঁহাদের বক্তব্যগুলিতে যেন তাঁহারা কর্ণপাত করেন। আমি মাননীয় তুলসীচন্দ্র গোস্বামী মহাশয়কে জানাইতেছি যে তিনি একজন বড় জমিদার; আমি দরিদ্র জমিদার হইলেও বিভাগীয় জমিদারদের প্রতিনিধি; তিনি তাঁহার মত চিন্তা করেন, আমি আমার মত চিন্তা করি। আমরাও আমাদের জমিদারীর আয়-ব্যয় সম্বন্ধে বিচার-বিবেচনা করিয়া থাকি এবং সেই হিসাবে বলিতে পারি যে তিনি যেভাবে খরচ দেখাইয়াছেন তাহাতে বাংলাদেশকে মারিয়া ফেলিবার ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন। যদি আয় না থাকে তবে এত কোটি টাকা ব্যয়ের বাজেট কেন?

যদি ঋণ করিতে হয় তাহা হইলে সেই অনুপাতে খরচ কমাইতে হয়। কিন্তু সরকার যে হারে খরচের বরাদ্দ করিয়াছেন তাহাতে টাকার অপব্যয় হইবে। তাঁহারা যে টাকা জলে ফেলিতেছেন একথা ভাবিয়া দেখিতেছেন না। বিশেষতঃ সিভিল সাপ্লাই ডিপার্টমেণ্টে জলের মত টাকা খরচ করিতেছেন; উপকারের অনুপাতে ব্যয়ের হার যে কত বেশী তাহা আর বলিতে হইবে না। প্রত্যেক ইউনিয়নের জন্য লোক দেওয়া হইয়াছে; বাংলায় কত ইউনিয়ন রহিয়াছে দেখুন। এক একজনকে দেড় শ' টাকা করিয়া দেওয়া হয়। এই টাকা জলে ফেলিয়া দেওয়া

হয়। আপনারা চিন্তা করিয়া দেখিবেন এই সমস্ত টাকা লইয়া ছিনিমিনি খেলা আরম্ভ করিয়াছেন, এই জন্যই আজ উপস্থিত হইয়াছে অর্থাভাব। বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের বোঝা উচিত যে দেশের লোক যে দিন এই সব কথা বুঝিতে পারিবে সে দিন তাঁহাদের অস্তিত্ব থাকিবে না; কিন্তু দেশের থাকিবে। আজ আপনারা যে ঋণভার বাংলাদেশের উপর চাপাইতেছেন সে ঋণ শোধ করিবে কে? আপনাদের এ মন্ত্রিত্ব চিরস্থায়ী নয় এবং তাহা হওয়াও সম্ভব নয়। দুনিয়ায় কিছুই চিরস্থায়ী নয়, মানুষও নয়। কাজেই সময় থাকিতে সতর্ক হওয়া উচিত। আমি গত বৎসর বাজেটের সময় অনেক নূতন নূতন তথ্য দিয়াছিলাম; তাহা গ্রহণ করিলে আজ এভাবে ঋণভারে জড়িত হইতে হইত না। সিভিল সাপ্লাই বিভাগের এমন ব্যবস্থা যে প্রত্যেক এলাকায়, প্রত্যেক দোকানে ঘুষের ব্যবস্থা। হিসাব করিয়া দেখুন কত টাকা ও কত শক্তির অপব্যয় হইয়াছে ও হইতেছে। টাকা লইয়া কত যে ছিনিমিনি খেলা হইতেছে তাহা আমি প্রমাণ করিয়া দিতে পারি। প্রত্যেক বিভাগে উপরওয়ালা থেকে আরম্ভ করিয়া দারোগা পর্য্যন্ত ঘুষ খাইতেছে কিন্তু আপনারা সে দিকে দৃষ্টি দিতেছেন না।

আজ দেশে কাপড় নাই, চিনি নাই। মফঃস্বলের যে কি দারুণ অবস্থা তা স্বচক্ষে না দেখিলে বুঝিতে পারেন না। আমরা টেলিগ্রাম করিয়া জানাই যে চট্টগ্রামে চিনি নাই। রোগীর পথ্য ও ঔষধের জন্য চিনি পাওয়া যায় নাই। এমন কি হাসপাতালে পর্য্যন্ত চিনি ছিল না। অথচ কলিকাতায় চা পানের জন্য পর্য্যন্ত চিনির অভাব হয় না। কাপড়ের কথা কি আর বলিব? কোন ভদ্রলোক কাপড় পাইতেছে না। আপনারা কণ্ট্রোল করিয়া বসেন কিন্তু যেখানে হাত নাই সেখানে হাত দিতে যান কেন জানি না। এতে লজ্জা হয় না। যেটায় হাত দিবেন সেটা কার্য্যে পরিণত করিবেন। এই সব দেখিয়া মনে হয় সিভিল সাপ্লাই বিভাগটী অকর্ম্মণ্য এবং অনাবশ্যক।

আর একটী কথা বলি। আজ কণ্ট্রাক্টরী, দালালী, দোকনদারী দিয়া দলের শক্তি বাড়াইতেছেন। দলের শক্তি যখন বাড়ে তখন তাহার জোরে লোক যা তা করিয়া বসে। এ ক্ষেত্রেও তাহাই হইতেছে। সেই জন্য আমরা বলিতেছি যে, সর্ব্বদল মিলিয়া কাজ করিলেই ঐ সকল বিশৃঙ্খলা দূর হইতে পারে। আবার দেখাই মন্ত্রী মহোদয়গণ কিরূপ অন্যায়ভাবে নিজেদের জেলার জন্য অর্থ ব্যয় করেন। ফরিদপুরে এতিমখানা খুলিবার জন্য লাট সাহেব গিয়াছিলেন। এতিমখানার গৃহনির্ম্মাণের জন্য ১।। লাখ টাকা এবং বাৎসরিক সাহায্য ৩ লাখ টাকার ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন। ফরিদপুর, ঢাকা তাঁহাদের নিজ নিজ জেলা বলিয়া সেই দিকে বেশী টান। আমি বলি এতিমখানার জন্য দিতে হয় বাংলার সব জায়গায় দিন। এতদ্ভিন্ন মেম্বরদের বেতন ইত্যাদিতে বহু টাকা ব্যয় হইতেছে অথচ অনেক প্রয়োজনীয় বিষয়ের দিকে লক্ষ্য নাই।

খাঁ বাহাদুর মোয়াজ্জেমুদ্দীন হোসেন সাহেব এখানে উপস্থিত আছেন। তাঁহার ইচ্ছা যে দেশে কৃষির উন্নতি হয় এবং লোক ঐ কার্য্যে অনুপ্রাণিত হয়। কিন্তু আমি দেখিয়াছি চট্টগ্রাম জেলার Forest এলাকায় ২।। হাজার একর এবং অন্যত্র ৪ হাজার একর ধান জমি পতিত রহিয়াছে। সেখানে ফরেষ্ট আয় অপেক্ষা ব্যয় বেশী। আজ এই সকল জমিতে ধান্য উৎপাদন করিলে চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগে ধান্যের অভাব হইত না। অভাব হইয়াছে বলিয়াই এই সকল কথা আজ বলিতে হয়।

তার পর ট্যাক্সের কথা বলি—আজ বহুবিধ ট্যাক্স আপনারা বসাইয়াছেন; কৃষি ট্যাক্স, সেল ট্যাক্স প্রভৃতিতে বহু আয় করিতেছেন। চামড়ার উপর ট্যাক্স, সুপারীর উপর পর্য্যন্ত ট্যাক্স, গরীব চাষীর ব্যবহার্য্য তামাকের উপর ট্যাক্স। আজ যত না সুপারীর দাম, ট্যাক্স তদপেক্ষা বেশী। আমি অনুরোধ করি তামাক ও সুপারীর উপর ট্যাক্স কমাইয়া দিন। পাটের নিম্ন দর বাঁধিয়া দিলে উহা হইতে বিস্তর আয় হইতে পারে।

Mr. ABDUL HAKEEM: Mr. Deputy Speaker, on this occasion we stand on the threshhold of a new financial year and bid good night to the preceding year. In the history of our parliamentary activities it is

a solemn occasion when we cannot choose to be frivolous. The supporters of Government will go wrong if they have nothing but unqualified congratulations for the Hon'ble Finance Minister. We too from the Opposition shall not be justified in heaping upon him unmerited condemnation. The events of two years sweep before our eyes and we are about to embark upon their successor. The mistakes and follies and failures of the past constitute a landmark in the light of which we must shape our policy for the salvation of this hapless country. We will ring out the false and ring in the true. If we do not come up to the mark we have no right to continue as legislators.

Sir, while listening to the classical statement of the Hon'ble Minister I could not help thinking that he held the poet's pen and gave to airy nothing a local habitation and a name. This is his weakest point as Chancellor of Exchequer who has got to feed hunghy millions, clothe an equal number and rehabilitate the same in their normal sphere of life. There is no realistic approach to the preblem. The statement, to borrow the Biblical language, is put in a network of silver, but it is not an apple of gold. Even *prima facie* there is no new outlook, no reorientation. The budget as revealed through its mouthpiece does not appear to be a democratic dispensation. It is pre-eminently a budget for vested interests. We beg, borrow or bungle; the vast expenditure contemplated is not to go in any fair measure to the benefit of the have-nots for whom we pretend to legislate but is meant and earmarked primarily for the creation of additional staff to be additional pillars for the support of the power that be. Why are new posts, new jobs and new machineries after all? They are brought into existence and are distributed as favours amongst favoured people who began a new hierarchy of vested interests.

The budgetary plans this time last year, the Finance Minister tells us, aimed at the attainment of two primary objectives—first to prevent a recurrence of famine and, secondly, to administer relief to the famine-stricken humanity and control the epidemics that followed, and over the alleged phenomenal success of the three-fold programme of production, procurement and distribution of food the Hon'ble Minister has become jubilant and proceeds to take the entire credit to his Government. It is difficult to open the eyes of such a gentleman; he lives in complete isolation from the grim battle of life and is housed in his own dream which it will be useless to undo. But what I feel on this point very strongly is that while appropriating fulsome credit to his Government, gratitude required that he ought to have remembered the never failing philanthropy of the public of Bengal who, if anybody at all, are entitled to real credit. On yet another point the Hon'ble Minister betrayed his ignorance of realities. How fantastic has he become when he says that the victims of destitution and sickness are no longer adrift but have been provided with food and shelter and medical relief. Even here he does not stop. He is on his wings and finds a millennium for the destitute and the sick.

Sir, as a matter of fact, on the production front, the achievement of this Government is practically nil. There is a huge wastage of public money without corresponding substantial benefit accruing to the country therefrom. The eternal plough, the antidiluvian man behind the plough and his old-fashioned method stood us in good stead all these years prior to the dismal 1943. But the Hon'ble Minister must have to requisition the services of experts from across the seas and oceans and teach a Govinda Samanta how to plough a lonely furrow. Three-hundred additional officers are being appointed for the purpose. The reorganisation of the Department of Fisheries also involves the creation of 4 posts of Deputy Directors, 8 posts of Superintendents, 26 posts of District Fishery Officers and 85 posts of Field Assistants. The genius of the Bengal Ministry lies in creating a multiplicity of jobs. The pompous proposals ill-suit the poor people of Bengal who will feel happy if they

are not interfered with in pursuit of their own occupations. It appears that the deep distress of 1943 has not humanised the Ministry yet. The "Grow More Food" campaign conceived and conducted as it is has so far proved to be a huge hoax. There must be some hidden want in all that we do; there must be something wrong with the machinery we employ. The Government officers seem to have lost their moral backbone. Far from seeking their reward in the efficient discharge of their duties they are found to take to short cuts. This is demoralisation complete resulting from nepotism and favouritism.

To pass on to the problem of cattle there is little room for optimism in the Hon'ble Minister's statement. Cattle are indispensably necessary for agricultural purposes. A breath can make Princes and Lords, but no enchanter occupying the Treasury Benches can ever claim to create cattle at his sweet will. In our country cattle are bound to degenerate as we leave no pasture ground apart for these dumb useful creatures. Even in the Hon'ble Minister's mock heroic statement there is a high-sounding foolish proposal for bringing in railway side lands under cultivation as part of the Ministry's "Grow More Food" campaign. I laugh in my sleeves. Will fodder drop from high heavens? I am just reminded of a certain *goshala* in village Kamalpur within the sub-division of Bagerhat. A fairly large area of land has been set apart and a *goshala* having a suitable *pucca* house created by a gentleman of the village at a cost of Rs. 15,000. It is fit to be a cattle-breeding station and dairy farm. I do not know why it is not being utilised by Government. In this connection I draw attention to the problem of reclamation of Dakatiar Beel,—a vast water-logged area which should have yielded paddy sufficient for the entire Sadar area of Khulna. Such reclamation will obviate the necessity of bringing any and every piece of land under the plough and leave ample pasturage for the cattle population.

Sir, the budget statement is mysteriously silent on the jute problem and its prices. The Hon'ble Minister is grievously guilty of this serious omission. If it is intentional, his guilt is all the more aggravated. Government must announce its policy on this all-important subject.

To come to Civil Supplies, one single line summarises the unhappy state of things prevailing there. Everybody directly or indirectly connected with it wants to make hay while the sun shines. Corruption and bribery are the order of the day. A new lesson people have begun to learn under the present dispensation, namely, honesty does not pay. This Ministry in the enjoyment of its ephemeral existence thinks that it has obtained a lease of life in perpetuity. It is time it cried halt.

The subject of famine relief calls to my mind the black chapter of the history of 1943 Bengal. I do not pretend to possess the encyclopaedic knowledge of our modern Todurmull. But if I have eyes to see, ears to hear and a mind to judge what I came to know at Khulna must not have a parallel anywhere and the powers that be should take lessons from these laches. The history of Khulna from 1942 right up to the middle of the year 1944 is a history of nepotism, favouritism, bungling, bribery and corruption. Upon his assumption of office as District Officer the present District Officer must have had to come across a hopeless state of mald-ministration—an Augean stable too vast for any Hercules. There is a temporary Sub-Deputy Collector recruited from the Jute Regulation Department. He began as a Circle Officer of Khulna and he soon became an Almighty under the patronage of the then District Officer. He must be in Famine Relief affairs; he must be in the improvised orphanage; he must be in the milk canteens; he must be an engine to raise money for this and that and a lot of known and unknown things; he must have an institution in the name of his boss and collect funds; he must be arranging sumptuous banquets for gods who now dwell on earth. So, he need not render accounts. He is above fault. He lives like a prince and yet

he is a Circle Officer in a saline area. If there had been a secret service, that might have unearthed secrets. Bungling in the affairs of Famine Relief and controlled goods beggared description. For the relief of the destitute and poor, Government had placed blankets at the disposal of local authorities for free distribution. Now it will be blasphemy to say that a large number of them this mighty man is said to have withheld and in the subsequent summer season in order to further the campaign of a candidate for election to the District Board the said blankets were used. A member of the heaven-born service happened to be his boss. So, people who spoke against him were scandal-mongers. Thus he moved and acted his heroic role under official benediction. Vainly, very vainly people moralise "Deep in ruin as in guilt".

To turn to big things from this paltry nauseating chapter, so far as bold headlines of post-war planning and so forth are concerned, suffice it to say that it is distance that lends enchantment to the view. After the termination of hostilities a New World Order is no doubt bound to come on the sacrifices of patriots who are now languishing. But the credentials of the present Ministry will count for nothing when that day dawns upon afflicted humanity. The flag of Democracy will then be unfurled on the Admiral staff and vested interests will go into banishment. So, the Hon'ble Minister and his colleagues may safely avoid their pompous post-war reconstruction plans and the mighty labours of the Bengal Administration Committee. Who will listen to the foolish proposals mapped out and silly advice tendered by people who cannot move about without the help of crutches?

Let us now ring the knell of publicity conducted purely as a sordid propaganda. We are war-weary and the pictures and poses of boasting Falstaffs of the drama have already stood *ad nauseum*. Shame is now ashamed of such publicity.

So, by a proper planning and an honest husbandry the Hon'ble Finance Minister can yet save a vast deal and employ the same more profitably for the realisation, as he says, of his dream; "A greater fulfilment of life by the assurance of a decent standard of living for each and all". Thus appealing from Philip drunk to Philip sober I do conclude.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi S. ABDUR RAUF: Mr. Speaker, Sir, in rising to offer my suggestions and criticisms about the budget estimates for the year 1945-46 I feel it my duty to offer, first of all, my congratulations to the Hon'ble Finance Minister about his novel and stimulating manner of presentation of the estimates for the consideration of the House. Before I commence, however, an analysis of those estimates, I must also say a few words laying stress on the extraordinary situation which the present Ministry had to face immediately on assumption of office and how courageously and tactfully the Ministry tackled the same successfully. In planning out gigantic schemes specially under abnormal conditions there are likely to be slight loopholes here and there and in the execution of stupendous tasks there are bound to crop up ordinary mistakes now and then. A survey of the work done by the Bengal Ministers during the year that is drawing to a close will convince anybody of the fact that the success achieved in the matter of wriggling out of the quagmire into which the province as a whole was thrown due to the war and the sudden outbreak of a large-scale famine was almost phenomenal and that the mistakes were so few and so very negligible. By way of mentioning only one instance about which at the outset many shook their heads in doubt, I may draw the attention of all sections of the Legislature to the brilliant achievement of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies whose assurance about the regular supply of foodgrains throughout Bengal was carried out in a way which proves clearly that to a really resourceful and determined man with drive and personality nothing is too difficult to be negotiated even in the face of tremendous odds and

Himalayan difficulties. All the members of the Opposition side including responsible public leaders were loud in their denunciation of the present Ministry and in order to win over the people to their way of thinking, they were always telling them about the imminence of a more dire famine and the sudden collapse of the machinery which was set up for ensuring a steady supply and judicious distribution of foodgrains throughout the province; but all those prohesies had turned out to be false in spite of the scanty co-operation received from the public at large at the beginning at the time of introduction of various measures which the Government considered indispensable in order to meet the abnormal situation created by the war and the famine. In the light of what was done during such a critical year, I may safely foretell that it all sections of the house and the public work in close co-operation with the present Government and the permanent officials, then all future efforts about rehabilitation will be crowned with a greater success and the task of reconstruction of Bengal at the end of the war will be much easier. Every day lost now will be valuable time lost for ever. With this appeal for help, sympathy and co-operation to all concerned, I now pass on to offer a few constructive suggestions for the consideration of the House and the present Cabinet.

It is good indeed that the Hon'ble Finance Minister instead of creating a huge smoke screen in course of his budget statement by a bewildering display of figure work has tried to hold up before the House a pen portrait of the progress made by the Government in the matter of relief, rehabilitation and post-war reconstruction and of the future plans which are likely to mature and to be translated into actualities in course of the coming year. I find that the financial condition of the province will, it is feared, deteriorate and there is no indication about any possible improvement in the situation in the immediate future. This is a great drawback which must produce a damping effect all round. There is no message of hope, no assurance about gradual lowering of the general price-index and no guarantee about rigid practice of economy by all Government departments and non-imposition of any fresh taxes. On the other hand, there is the pointed hint that estimates are expected to be far short of the actuals and that the Government are considering further possibilities of augmenting the revenue receipts of the province. There is a saying that every one should try to cut his coat according to the cloth he has but this wholesome maxim was totally lost sight of by those who prepared the budget estimates. The plea advanced always is to the effect that necessity knows no law. It is because the conditions are abnormal, the expenditure cannot be controlled in any way and hence the duty of the Finance Minister is fully and adequately discharged as soon as he enumerates the lists of likely heads of expenditure and mentions the various heads of supply sources. My query is:—should we all bow down to arguments like that? Should we not try to explore all possibilities of retrenchment? Is it not our bounden duty to consider carefully how this can be mended and where this will lead us in the long run?

The immediate needs of the province are (1) fullest utilisation of all cultivable waste and fallow lands throughout Bengal during the next cultivation season, (2) import of yarns of all counts in sufficient quantities so that the present cloth famine may be liquidated at once, (3) quick revival of such cottage industries as will enable the tillers of the soil to earn additional sums by working during the idle months of the year, and (4) stoppage of further recruitment to newly-created posts in all departments so that the time-honoured method of spending a greater amount of the budget allotments on salaries of staff alone may be departed from in order to produce tangible and instantaneous results.

I have seen with my own eyes in many a village many acres of fallow land which are lying as such simply because the absentee owners are indifferent about bringing under the plough every inch of cultivable land. All the honourable members of this House who visit rural areas now and then will also assert the same thing in respect of their similar experience all over

rural Bengal. It is strange indeed that when the prices of paddy and rice are still running high and the poorer classes are finding it difficult to purchase food at such prices, lands which may produce additional food for thousands are allowed to lie idle like this.

Everybody here will agree with me if I tell the House with all the emphasis at my command that men and specially womenfolk, to enable them to live in society, require some covering for their bodies more urgently than food to feed their hungry stomachs. There is not a single female in Bengal who would not gladly agree to go without food for a few days in order to get even a coarse *saree* to wear. It is a pity that there is no mention in the budget speech about the acute scarcity of cloth and the steps taken by the Ministry about the removal of the causes which led to that scarcity. I am convinced beyond a shadow of doubt that the present Ministry has the capacity for ending this state of affairs quickly. Hence I am begging the Hon'ble Chief Minister to do his very best in this matter, as early as possible.

Cottage industries like hand-weaving, paper-making, oil-pressing, sugar-manufacture may be easily pushed on without much expert guidance more so on a co-operative basis as in China, but there is nothing to show that anybody spent a thought on items like those. When the industrial revolution took place in the western countries the conditions favoured such an upheaval but, the evils of over-industrialisation are manifest now even in the most advanced countries of Europe and the new world and yet in provinces like Bengal where manpower is always available in huge quantities, attempts are not being made at all about the immediate starting of suitable cottage industries.

All this is happening in this unhappy province simply because the right types of men are not being chosen by the Government for the key posts. The same past tendencies of dumping every office with unworthy favourites and superannuated men are rampant even now with the result that men with missionary zeal and practical idealism, men who have confidence in themselves and their methods of work and who can take the initiative successfully in launching big productive projects are being kept in the background instead of being hunted out and placed in charge. In choosing the subordinate agencies also great care is necessary for workers who work mechanically and are by nature apt to follow routine matters and rules only should never be chosen for work in any department of a constructive and nation-building nature. With deepest regret I am saying all this because I consider it my duty to caution my friends to see the writing on the wall. Those who try to cling to ideas and notions which are crumbling all over the world, are bound to repent later on for their failure to detect the fissures in time. These are not the idle words of a visionary but of a well-meaning, cautious man prone to analyse and appraise situations very carefully as a result of life-long public service and mistakes of the past.

The same age-old practice of recruiting experts and forming sub-committees is held out to us as the only beaconlight which may enable this provincial ship to reach a comfortable and safe shore through all mists and storms. I beg to differ from that viewpoint and beseech the honourable Cabinet members not to fritter away their energies in search of experts and in going through the recommendations of such sub-committees. The deliberations of committees may be of some use under ordinary conditions when the time factor is not at all of very great consequence; but under extraordinary situations like the present, deeds first, deeds second and deeds always should be the motto of all who are in charge of the provincial administrative machinery.

As regards the supply of food to the inhabitants of Calcutta and its suburbs, the recent decision of the Central Government about shifting that

burden again on to the shoulder of the Provincial Government is highly regrettable and the Ministry should try to get that decision reversed at all costs.

The "Grow More Food" campaign cannot be solved simply by appointing 300 additional agricultural officers of different grades, opening centres for distribution of improved seeds, advising use of manures in greater quantities and of improved varieties and making some budget provision for additions to the existing irrigation facilities. Human element is being totally ignored in this connection. What will trained agricultural officers do in a place like Bengal where illiteracy and suicidal conservatism which is the outcome of such illiteracy will prevent the cultivators from taking the expert advice of such trained men? The example of Britain, Japan and such other countries where literacy prevails and the recent experiments in China should act as an eye-opener in this matter. (At this stage the red light was lit but the member was allowed to conclude his speech.)

I am sorry to note that there is no mention of the sums budgeted for under the head "Education" in the speech of the Hon'ble Finance Minister. This is an omission which requires some explanation in my opinion. A routine head like "Education" was perhaps considered of smaller importance in comparison with items like famine relief, rehabilitation, planning and reconstruction, etc. As the percentage of literacy in Bengal will not exceed 12 per cent. of the population whereas the percentage of literacy even in a country like China is higher, I wonder how an important item like that came to be ignored in this way. I find, however, that a large sum has been provided under the head "Education" but as usual the amount allotted for higher education is much larger in proportion to the amounts provided for primary education for which far larger sums ought to have been budgted.

Without a proper planning for immediate mass literacy the condition of rural Bengal will never improve and this fact was lost sight of when the budget was being drawn up. I must, however, convey my gratitude to the Hon'ble Finance Minister and to the Ministry as a whole for kindly making a provision for a lakh of rupees for sanctioning grants to the senior and junior madrassas throughout Bengal for holding regular Hefz-ul Koran classes for creating Hafizes whose number is becoming scarcer and scarcer day by day in this province. A much higher sum, say, at least four lakhs ought to have been allotted for an item like that. The Ministry will be failing in their duty towards the Muslims of Bengal if this is not done early.

In conclusion I like to tell my Minister friends that my criticisms were all offered in a friendly spirit in order to help them in their good work with constructive suggestions which, if acted upon, will produce lasting yet quick results.

Maharaja BHUPENDRA CHANDRA SINGHA, of Susang: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, let me congratulate the Hon'ble the Finance Minister on his presenting before the House the most dismal budget in a pleasing language. Some have compared the budget to sugar-coated quinine tablets and others have been more trenchant in the criticism of the budget. We, however, feel that the provisions of the budget may be likened to the experiments of the sugar-coated mepacrine tablets, now on, through improper hands much to the detriment of the people for whose benefits they are meant.

Bengal Government have been handling amounts the like of which they have never done before. The question is whether the money that has been or may be available is likely to be spent properly or not—whether the past activities of the Government encourage us to accept their promises on their face value. Even though the past activities of the Government be not encouraging, some of the honourable members of this House may yet suggest measures with a view to improving the situation. As a new-comer to this House I feel rather diffident in encroaching on the province of veterans

from whom we have already heard certain suggestions and we hope to hear more. I should therefore restrict my observations to the narrations before the House of my experience gathered about the state of affairs in the countryside and of some places too far away from Calcutta and its suburbs as they stand affected by the present administration. I have recently been coming from my home that has been by a peculiar fancy of the Rulers included in what are called the "Partially Excluded Areas". Those areas were *Pandab Barjit* and after 200 years of British rule those have again been declared as "Partially Excluded Areas" and to prove that they are partially excluded the headquarters of that area has been connected with the wholly "Included World" by a partially incomplete road, the only means of communication and supply of the produce of a paddy surplus area of the Mymensingh district, and this again is one of the oldest District Board roads in the Mymensingh district. The headquarters remains cut off from the outside world for four months every year. This is how the dual protection has been functioning in that area. This is also how the road administration department of the Government is functioning in the Excluded Area. Is it not possible to hand over the proportionate road cess to His Excellency the Governor for discharging his duties to that area? When I reached the proximity of the railway station I was surprised to find huge dumps of paddy stocked in the open that was waiting to be despatched by the railway and other means of conveyance. It was some relief to be told locally that measures were being taken to speed up despatch of the paddy; but I was also told that the measures were very inadequate. This is about the functioning of another department of the Government. The question which naturally arose in my mind was, why is it that when the Government had made purchases or instructed purchases of paddy to be made in out-of-the-way places, they had not given proper thought to the situation that might arise out of the difficulties due to lack of proper means of transport? Was it due to want of proper co-ordination arrangement between the various departments of Government administration? Will it be improper to suggest that it is high time that the *liaison* work was thoroughly overhauled if there has been any already or one was instituted at once, if there is none.

I then came to Mymensingh where I was told, immediately before I had arrived, it had been made known by beat of drum that it would be a penal offence to criticise a Government official anywhere. This kept me thinking whether there was something very gravely wrong somewhere. Suppression of criticism of popular Government leads to all sorts of rumours. I was surprised to find that the people were complaining about the inadequate supply of the essentials of human requirements. The people of the exclusively paddy-growing area were complaining about the uneconomic price of paddy at which they were to part with their only source of income and from every nook and corner came complaints about the inadequacy of the supply of food, clothing and medicines. These are matters on which public sentiments are bound to be moved deeply. Instead of remedying evils it is unjust and cruel to thrust any dangerous pill down the throat of the people without letting them utter a word of protest.

When I listened to the speeches of the Hon'ble Finance Minister I felt puzzled and wondered whether I had been in a dreamland on my way from the countryside, or I am here under the spell of a magician? But the stern realities of day-to-day life are too hard to allow the spell of the speeches to last for a long time. When the Government measures aimed at stimulating production, result in less milk, less fish, less meat, less oil, less cloth and even less salt,—nay lesser than the minimum requirements of human system,—the feeling that inevitably grows on us is that either the Ministerial promises are misleading or the administrative machinery has gone wrong somewhere. This Ministry had got a fair chance for overhauling the machinery. It seems they have not been able to turn it to good account.

The question of overhauling should engage the attention of the honourable members of the House as well as of the honourable members who are occupants of the Treasury Benches, and the approach need be made with a spirit free from the common human prejudice and shortcomings.

I now come to draw the attention of the House and of the Government to the case of the zemindars, whose wailings may be compared with those of the Hon'ble Finance Minister himself. But the Finance Minister stands on a better footing having been helped out of the Meston Award to the Niemeyer Award while the zemindars are on extremely precarious grounds without any prospect of help from any quarters. They have cried themselves hoarse for help in the matter of speedy realisation of rents but to no effect. Now that the Agricultural Income-tax Act has been put into operation as recommended by the Floud Commission, it is only meet and proper that that Commission's recommendations about the speedy realisation of rents should also be given effect to. The Agricultural Income-tax has come so suddenly on us that even the Government have been encountering certain difficulties in dealing with the provisions of the Act. Naturally, the zemindars may hope to get breathing time before the provisions of the Act are fully enforced. We hope the Government will at least instruct a less stringent application of its procedure at the beginning. It is generally believed that the zemindars have of late reaped a good harvest, but the critics forget that the lean years through which the zemindars had to pass have left most of them hardly any chance to retrieve from that position. The generality of landholders are far from being in any enviable position. I should even go so far as to suggest——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Maharaja, it will be better if you finish your speech after the prayer. I will give you full time.

The House stands adjourned for 15 minutes for prayer.

(The House was at this stage adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Maharaja BHUPENDRA CHANDRA SINGHA, of Susang: I should even go so far as to suggest that in consideration of the services rendered to society in its entirety, the case of the zemindars justly deserves to be treated with more sympathy and understanding at a phase of their existence when they have fallen on evil times and even on evil tongues.

I should like to draw the attention of the Government to the desirability of reviewing the policy of giving protection to encumbered estates under the Court of Wards. When any estate is committed to the charge of Court of Wards the protection given should be wholly adequate and the Court of Wards should be in a position to discharge its duties in an efficient manner. The private zemindars have mostly to depend on the goodwill of the people for the successful management of their estates and it must be said to the credit of the successful landholders that the goodwill on them are bestowed by the people under their care, in unstinted measures, in spite of many provocative causes to the contrary. But placed as the Court of Wards has been, the elements of personal touch with the tenants, as in the case of the zemindars, cannot form a feature of its administration in general. The laws governing it should therefore be helpful for easing the performance of the task it is entrusted with. The Court of Wards' success mainly depended on the application of the certificate procedure; this privilege has since been denied to it. We therefore hope that the Government will consider the desirability of reintroducing the certificate procedure with the estates under the Court of Wards and in the estates in areas where the revisional settlement operations have been over, and thereby help the speedy realisation of rents. The appellate court for cases under certificate procedure may conveniently be placed under the Civil Court instead of the Revenue Court with a view to achieving speedy results.

One more point and I have finished. I appeal to the honourable members and to the Government that remembering the past services of the zemindars of Bengal to the economic, cultural and social uplift of the province as a whole, can they not treat them with some amount of consideration before the mercy bullet is put through their chest? Do the scions of this great class which has served the country in so many directions deserve no fairer treatment from their countrymen before they are finally crushed out of existence? We hear of various services and reconstruction schemes, we have also heard of special seats having been reserved for special classes for special kinds of services, would it be too much to expect that competent and qualified ones amongst the descendants of zemindars should be suitably accommodated and provided for under the various schemes relating to land development, general administration, agriculture industries and the like?

We are on the throes of great events and much of constructive genius is required from persons who have the good fortune of guiding the destiny of our people at this critical juncture. Bengal has suffered much in reputation during the past few years. Is it not possible to get together the best brains of Bengal to work for the common good of the Motherland at this great moment? Great achievements demand unprejudiced devotion to duty. Little minds and great things go ill together. Is it too much to expect that our leaders of the parties shall be able to forget their past bitterness of feelings and join hands to work together for the common good of our Motherland?

Rai Sahib MONMOHAN DAS: Sir, in criticising the budget, I would speak at the outset that the Hon'ble Finance Minister has presented the budget with nice projects of popular schemes, such as food production development of fisheries, famine relief, anti-epidemic measures and so on due to which the Government shall have to incur a heavy debt of nineteen crores.

Before going into the details of income and expenditure of each head I should speak that in these days of war emergency, sufferings and crisis the Government must bring all such relief measures and rehabilitation schemes for giving relief to the famine-stricken and distressed people and the Government should not hesitate for any amount of debt or expenditure as the case may be because the people must be saved. But the main question is whether this budgeted amount would at all come to the good of the distressed people of Bengal and whether this huge amount would be spent for good administration (doing equity and justice). We also want that the budget be passed and the money be spent for the best interest of the people. But what do we find in the countryside? How the administration is running on and how corruption, bribery, maltreatment, mal administration, differential treatment and misuse of money are prevailing all over the province?

Sir, from topmost officers to the lowest rank, how they are dealing with the public and wasting public money and even some Ministers are spending the public money with vindictive motive for party propaganda?

I would now refer to certain instances about the conduct and dealing of the resposible executive officers, and I would confine myself with regard to public health, civil supplies and relief matters. Sir, you will find that sheer injustice has been done unto the public and the democracy has got no place; and highhandedness by the officers is going on.

May I be permitted to place before the House that at Kishoreganj town in the district of Mymensingh an incident took place at the Subdivisional Officer's bungalow concerning some female Hindu nurses of Kishoreganj F. R. E. Hospital which implicated the local Subdivisional Officer Mr. S. N. H. Rizvi, the most responsible officer of that subdivision. With regard to the conduct of that officer starred question No. 39 has been answered this evening.

Lots of supplementary questions were put but the Government denies any such report. Mrs. Amiya Sen is a respectable lady of that town. May I ask the Government why such a respectable lady should make such allegations against the biggest officer of the subdivision lowering her own dignity and prestige? So far my information is that sensational matter was duly brought to the notice of the Civil Surgeon, Mymensingh, and other authorities by the nurses concerned. May I know what has been the result? What action has been taken by the Hon'ble the Chief Minister? It is very, very regretable that the matter has been stealthily dropped. Sir, such is the information from Katiadi F. R. E. Hospital regarding which I am told that a direct criminal case was started at Kishoreganj by a female Hindu nurse against the doctor of the hospital.

A similar occurrence recently took place at Bajitpur F. R. E. Destitute Hospital implicating the clerk. I am told the matter was reported to the Civil Surgeon, Mymensingh, and to the Subdivisional Officer as well. What becomes the result? Instead of justice, the informants are put to trouble. What can be done? Because everything depends upon the report of the executive heads. You can easily realise where we are to stand.

Sir, allow me to speak of the Debt Settlement Officer of Kishoreganj Circle. He realised thousands of rupees while he was a Loan Collecting Officer at Bajitpur. It is understood he misappropriated about 5 to 7 thousand of rupees, and the matter was traced after the lapse of a year. A sparrow whispers that the matter has now been peacefully dropped.

Sir, with all the emphasis at my command I press that a non-official committee of enquiry should at once be appointed to remove all such vicious elements from the Government staff.

To speak of the civil supplies, the people are badly suffering for want of their daily necessaries mainly salt, kerosene and cloth. This is not only due to shortage of supply, but for maldistribution also.

Here I would add that malaria has been in such a virulent type that almost 90 per cent. of the people in many parts of Kishoreganj subdivision are under attack. What becomes the condition of the people if kerosene light be not available in the houses of the patients at night?

Cloth has been out of market. The mill cloths that are occasionally supplied through the Co-operative Central Bank do not reach the poor people.

My friend, Mr. Israil, M.L.A., is the chief agent to distribute cloths in the municipality selected by the Subdivisional Officer and a very small quantity which goes to the union board controlled shops becomes invisible in the next morning at the fancy of the local *mathars* and where the poor people are to stand. The Scheduled Castes and Hindus as a whole are practically deprived of it.

Fresh trouble has now been created in Kishoreganj subdivision. The Subdivisional Officer in order to get a jump or to achieve credit from the Government has been blind to give effect to the multi-purpose co-operative society. An order has been passed by him that unless each ration-holder purchases a minimum share of five rupees each, his ration supply should be stopped.

Hundreds of people approached me with their ration cards that ration supply has been stopped since December last. And the sufferings of the people know no bounds. The Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal, Minister, Co-operative, attended a public meeting at Panaher bazar, Karimganj, where, I understand, the people of Gondhar, Singlipur and Sutarpara unions placed their grievances with petitions, stating their inability to purchase shares in this hard crisis. I do not know what he has done. Still today they have got no remedy.

I would now place before the House not only the highhandedness and autocracy of the officials but also the conduct of the Minister, the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal. During his recent visit to Kishoreganj, he played a very ludicrous game.

Apprehending no reception there he took shelter under a suspended Sub-Deputy Magistrate who is a resident of Kishoreganj subdivision to arrange reception. One Scheduled Caste Sub-Deputy Collector of Kishoreganj Criminal Court, who happens to be a Barisal man, took charge of temporary leadership on behalf of the local Scheduled Caste public and the Subdivisional Officer got bundles of leaflets printed in some names of the local Scheduled Castes in Government papers and deputed the Scheduled Caste clerks even the chaukidars to run into the Scheduled Caste villages from door to door to canvass for the Minister.

Now to speak of the Hon'ble Minister himself, it is surprising to learn how the hon'ble member of the Cabinet could speak in a public meeting—

(*i*) that the local Scheduled Caste M. L. A. did not bring to the notice of the Government the distress and sufferings of the local Scheduled Caste people;

(*ii*) that not a single Scheduled Caste man suffered or died in his district in the last famine, I mean in Barisal district;

(*iii*) that the local Scheduled Caste M. L. A. did not inform him for the stipends of students and grants to the schools and even said;

(*iv*) that the M. L. A., brought thousands of rupees from the Government for relief and instead of giving relief to the poor, he himself enjoyed it.

One cannot expect such a false and nonsensical statement from a responsible member of the Cabinet. How could he dare to make a false statement. How irresponsible he is! He could speak so because he was surrounded by the Government officers and he was in the midst of the Police officers. Hence he dared to tell such a malicious lie.

I do not like to take much of the valuable time of the House by speaking at length. This much I should add. Even His Excellency, the Governor of Bengal, stated in a meeting in the Calcutta Rotary Club that there are six crores of unfortunates in Bengal, and three main factors should first of all be solved, namely, (1) to grow more food from 50 million acres of land, (2) to reduce illiteracy, and (3) to better their health.

It is disgraceful that the Hon'ble Minister of the Cabinet is not aware of the distress and sufferings of the people.

Is it not a fact that according to the Government report more than 40 lakhs of people died in the last famine? What would be the death proportion of the Scheduled Castes? Not less than 18 to 19 lakhs! But my friend is not aware of that. He should leave the Cabinet at once.

Most emphatically I speak that Ministers of this type should not be allowed any travelling allowance for mofussil tours for false propaganda. Restriction order should be imposed upon them not to leave the station and to squander public money.

Before I resume my seat I should speak one point more regarding artisan classes. A scheme has been pending for more than a year but not a bit of yarn, thread or net has yet been supplied to the people of my subdivision.

I canont support such malpractice, maladministration and autocratic policy of the Ministry.

Before I take my seat I will only add a word. Five lakhs of rupees have been allotted for the Scheduled Caste education, but I am sorry to say that so far as my information goes some scheduled caste hostels known as the Bani Hostel and the Banipith Hostel which though they have been in

receipt of a grant since 1938 have been denied the grant because of the fact that my friends, who are managing these hostels, are sitting on this side of the House. It is sheer party politics. I hope Government will not follow such a party policy. With these words, I oppose the budget.

Maulana MD. ABDUL AZIZ: মাননীয় ডেপুটী স্পীকার মহোদয়! বর্ত্তমান সনের বাংলার বাজেটের সাধারণ আলোচনা করিতে যাইয়া প্রথমতঃ শিক্ষা খাতের ব্যয়-বরাদ্দের সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলিতে চাই। এই খাতে গত বৎসর হইতে সামান্য কিছু বেশী টাকা ধরা হইয়াছে। কিন্তু যে পরিমাণ টাকা বেশী ধরা হইয়াছে তাহা বর্ত্তমান দুর্দ্দিনে নিতান্তই কম। এই টাকা দিয়া শিক্ষা-প্রতিষ্ঠানগুলি মোটেই উপকৃত হইবে না। আমার বিশ্বাস বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট শিক্ষা বিভাগের দুরবস্থার ও জটিলতার খবর খুবই কম রাখেন। তা না হইলে শিক্ষা খাতের ব্যয়-বরাদ্দ আরও বৃদ্ধি পাইত। স্কুল, মাদ্রাসার শিক্ষকদের বেতন অকিঞ্চিৎকর বলিয়া এবং এই স্বল্প বেতনে সংসার যাত্রা নির্ব্বাহ করা কঠিন বলিয়া শিক্ষকগণ স্কুল মাদ্রাসা ছাড়িয়া অন্যত্র চলিয়া যাইতেছেন। কোন কোন স্থলে বহুদিন পর্য্যন্ত শিক্ষকের পদ খালি থাকা সত্ত্বেও পূর্ব্ব হারের বেতনে শিক্ষক মোটেই পাওয়া যাইতেছে না। এইভাবে শিক্ষকগণ কম বেতনের দায়ে স্কুল মাদ্রাসা ছাড়িতে থাকিলে অল্প সময় মধ্যে বাংলার শিক্ষাগারগুলি খালি হইবার আশঙ্কা। প্রাইমারী স্কুলের হেড্ পণ্ডিতগণ প্রায়ই চলিয়া গিয়াছেন, সেকেণ্ড পণ্ডিতগণও চলিয়া যাইবার উপক্রম করিতেছেন, কেননা, অভাবের তাড়নায় তাঁহারা স্কুল ছাড়িয়া যুদ্ধ সম্পর্কিত কোন কাজে বা সিভিল সাপ্লাইতে যাইয়া মোটা বেতন ভোগ করিয়া পরিবার প্রতিপালনের সুযোগ পাইতেছেন। এবার প্রাইমারী স্কুলের শিক্ষকতার জন্য class VI-VIIএ পড়া লোক পর্য্যন্ত গ্রহণ করা হইয়াছে। ইহাদের দ্বারা শিক্ষকতা চলিতে থাকিলে ভবিষ্যৎ ফল যে বিশেষ খারাপ হইবে ইহাতে কোন সন্দেহ নাই। শিক্ষকদের বেতন বৃদ্ধির জন্য আমি পূর্ব্ব হইতেই বলিয়া আসিতেছি। যাহাতে তাঁহাদের dearness allowance আরও বৃদ্ধি পায় তাহা অবিলম্বে করা উচিত। প্রাইমারী শিক্ষা সম্বন্ধে আমার আরও কিছু বক্তব্য আছে। এই শিক্ষায় দিনিয়াত পড়ার ব্যবস্থা না থাকায় মুসলমান ছাত্রগণ ধর্ম্ম শিক্ষা হইতে বঞ্চিত হইতেছে। ইহার পরিণতি যে কি হইবে তাহা আমাদের নেতারা মোটেই চিন্তা করেন না। এবার জানুয়ারী হইতে দিনিয়াত শিক্ষা বাধ্যতামূলক হইবে বলিয়া মাননীয় শিক্ষা-মন্ত্রী মহোদয় জানাইয়াছিলেন, কিন্তু তাহারও কোন কিছু হইল না। মনে রাখা উচিত এতকাল পর্য্যন্ত এভাবে ইসলাম বিবর্জ্জিত শিক্ষা হইতে থাকিলে অদূর ভবিষ্যতে বাংলায় মোসলমানি লুপ্ত হইয়া যাইবে। তাই অতি সত্বর প্রাইমারীতে দিনিয়াত শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থার জন্য অনুরোধ জানাইতেছি। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় প্রাইমারীর জন্য অল্প টাকা বাড়াইয়াই কাহিল হইয়া পড়িয়াছেন; তাই মাদ্রাসার জন্য কিছুই বাড়ান নাই। মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষাটা গভর্ণমেণ্টের নিকট যেন একটা ঝালাই। বহুদিন হইতে বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট ওল্ড স্কীম্ মাদ্রাসাগুলিকে সরকারী সাহায্য হইতে বঞ্চিত করিয়া রাখিয়াছিলেন। আমরা এসেম্‌ব্লিতে আসিবার পর অনেক পীড়াপীড়িতে ওল্ড স্কীম মাদ্রাসা-গুলিতে নামমাত্র সাহায্য দেওয়া হইয়াছে। ওল্ড স্কীম মাদ্রাসাগুলি মাসিক ৪০০৲ টাকা ব্যয়ের কমে চলিতে পারে না; সে স্থলে গভর্ণমেণ্ট ৫০৲ টাকা হইতে ১০০৲ টাকা পর্য্যন্ত মাসিক সাহায্য দিয়াছে; অধিকন্তু অনেক মাদ্রাসায় এ পর্য্যন্ত সাহায্য দেওয়া হয় নাই। এই মাদ্রাসাগুলিকে টিকাইয়া রাখিবার ইচ্ছা যেন বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্টের আদৌ নাই। যদি থাকিত তবে এমন দুর্দ্দিনে মাদ্রাসাগুলির জন্য কিছু grant না বাড়াইয়া পারিত না। যা হউক আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টের দৃষ্টি মাদ্রাসার দিকে—বিশেষতঃ ওল্ড স্কীম মাদ্রাসাগুলির দিকে—আকর্ষণ করিতেছি।

সর্ব্বশেষে আমি বাংলার কোরাণ শিক্ষার প্রতি গভর্ণমেণ্টের অমনোযোগিতা সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলিব। এই কোরাণী মাদ্রাসাগুলি টোলের সমশ্রেণীভুক্ত। ভুলক্রমে গভর্ণমেণ্ট জুনিয়ার ও সিনিয়ার মাদ্রাসাগুলিকে টোলের সমশ্রেণী জ্ঞানে উভয়ের প্রতি সমব্যবহারের ব্যবস্থা করিতেছেন। ইহা একটা মহা ভুল ব্যতীত আর কিছুই নয়। মাদ্রাসা জুনিয়র হইলে মোসলেম এম, ই, স্কুল

এবং সিনিয়র হইলে মোস্‌লেম হাই স্কুলের সমশ্রেণীভুক্ত হইবে, যেহেতু এই শ্রেণীর মাদ্রাসা-গুলিতে আরবী ছাড়াও বাংলা ইংরাজী, ইতিহাস ভূগোল, অঙ্ক, জ্যামিতি সব শিক্ষা দেওয়া হয়। প্রকৃতপক্ষে মুসলমানদের কোরাণী মাদ্রাসাগুলি টোলের সমপর্য্যায়ে থাকায় গভর্ণমেণ্ট গ্রাণ্ট পাওয়ার অধিকারী। কিন্তু এই অধিকার কতদিনে মুসলমানেরা পাইবে তাহা জানা নাই। যেহেতু এ বিষয়টা বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্ট বুঝিতে অনিচ্ছুক। আমি এ বিষয়ে গভর্ণমেণ্টকে বুঝাইতে বহু চেষ্টা করিয়াছি কিন্তু কোন ফল হয় নাই। অদ্য এই হাউসে সর্ব্বসমক্ষে গভর্ণমেণ্টকে বিশেষ অনুরোধ জানাইতেছি যে তাঁহারা যেন বাংলায় কোরাণ শিক্ষার বিস্তার করিয়া মুসলমান সমাজের ভক্তিভাজন হন। মাদ্রাসা শিক্ষায় stipendএর সংখ্যা অতি নগণ্য, বিশেষতঃ ওল্ড স্কীম মাদ্রাসার ছাত্রদের বেলা stipend যেন হারাম। A.D.P.I., M.E., যিনি মোসলেম শিক্ষার জন্য নিয়োজিত, তিনিও যেন বিভাগীয় চাপে পড়িয়া নিজের কর্ত্তব্য ভুলিয়া ইংরাজী শিক্ষার বিস্তারে ব্যস্ত। বার বার অনুরোধ-উপরোধ করা সত্বেও গভর্ণমেণ্টের মোস্‌লেম এডুকেশনের দিকে মনো-যোগ আকর্ষণ করান কঠিন হইয়াছে। আশা করি গভর্ণমেণ্ট মোসলেম এডুকেশনের জন্য বিশেষ যত্নবান হইবেন। আর বাংলায় একটা আরবী ইউনিভারসিটী ও তিবিবয়া কলেজ স্থাপনের আবশ্যকতা সম্বন্ধে গভর্ণমেণ্টকে জানাইতেছি।

সিভিল সাপ্লাই সম্বন্ধে আমার অনেক কিছু বলিবার ছিল। কিন্তু সময়াভাবে সব কথা বলা যাইবে না। শুধু কাপড় ও সুতা সম্বন্ধে কিছু বলিয়া ক্ষান্ত হইব। কাপড়ের সম্বন্ধে আপ-নারা সকলে জানেন যে বাংলার বাজারে কাপড় দুষ্প্রাপ্য হইয়া পড়িয়াছে। যে কাপড় আগে ১৲ টাকা ১৷৷০ টাকায় খরিদ করা যাইত সেই কাপড়ের ৫·৬৲ টাকা পর্য্যন্ত মূল্য হইয়াছিল কয়েক দিন আগে। এখন দেখা যাইতেছে যে সেই কাপড়ের দাম মফঃস্বলের বাজারে ১১-১২৲ টাকা। এই অবস্থাতে গরীব মানুষেরা কেমন করিয়া কাপড় কিনিবে? গভর্ণমেণ্ট সুতা কণ্ট্রোল করিতে যাইয়া একটা অব্যবস্থার সৃষ্টি করিয়াছেন। গভর্ণমেণ্ট যদি সুতা supply করিতে অপারগ হন তাহা হইলে তাহাতে হাত দেওয়া উচিত হয় নাই। আমি মফঃস্বলের লোক, আমার এলাকা ৫০ মাইল দীর্ঘ ৪০ মাইল প্রস্থ। সেখানে হাজার হাজার তাঁতী আছে এবং সেই তাঁতের কাপড় বিখ্যাত। এই বাবুরহাটীকে আমাদের বাংলা দেশের ম্যাঞ্চেষ্টার বলা যায়। কিন্তু আজ সেখানে শতকরা ১০ খানা তাঁতও চলে না। কেননা, গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে সুতা সাপ্লাই করিবেন বলিয়া আশা দিয়েছিলেন তাহার কিছুই হয় নাই। কো-অপারেটিভের throughতে সুতা দেবেন বলিয়া গভর্ণমেণ্ট এক অনর্থের সৃষ্টি করিয়াছেন। কত লোক সমিতির সভ্য হইয়া ব্ল্যাক্-মার্কেটিং করিতেছে। অথচ যার রীতিমত তাঁত আছে সে সুতা পাইতেছে না। যখন কণ্ট্রোল হয় নাই তখন সুতা পাওয়া যাইত, অথচ এখন যায় না। কিছু পূর্ব্বে ২৲ টাকার জিনিষ ৬৲ টাকা হইলেও কাপড় পাইতাম কিন্তু এখন গভর্ণমেণ্টের ও অপরের হাত পড়ার দরুণ ৬৲ টাকার কাপড় ১২৲ টাকার উপর হইয়াছে। আমি আশা করি গভর্ণমেণ্ট অতি সত্বর এ বিষয়ে মনো-যোগী হইবেন। এ সময় এখানে বসিয়া ছিনিমিনি খেলিলে চলিবে না। বাজারে কাপড় না থাকায় আমাদের মত লোক কাপড় পায় না, তাহলে সাধারণ লোক কেমন করিয়া পাইবে? যদি এই অবস্থা চলে তবে শীঘ্রই এমন সঙ্কট দেখা দিবে যে টাকা দিয়াও কাপড় পাওয়া যাইবে না। ইহার জন্য দায়ী কে? শুধু বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টই দায়ী হইবেন। আমি আশা করি তাঁহারা অতি সত্বর ব্যবস্থা করিবেন।

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-30 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Thursday, the 22nd February, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 22nd February, 1945 at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (MR. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 12 Hon'ble Ministers and 189 members.

Reference to Privileges Committee.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I proceed with the normal business of the House I should like to draw the attention of the House to the observations that were made against the Chair by Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal last evening in course of supplementary questions. I have got the copy of the observations that were made against the Chair by Dr. Sanyal. There are three courses left open to me—either I should resign or I should ask Dr. Sanyal to move a motion of removal or I should refuse to preside over the deliberations of this House. I have thought it desirable to place the whole matter before the Privileges Committee and along with it I propose to invite the Leader of the House, the Leader of the Opposition and the leaders of different parties, particularly the Leader of the Congress Party. If things are allowed to go on in this way I think not only the dignity of the Chair but the dignity of the whole House will be impaired. If the House agrees I will place the whole matter beginning from the question and its reply by Government and the supplementaries I allowed to that question. I want the opinion of the House in this matter and I hope the House will give its opinion now and here, and will have no objection to my referring it to the Privileges Committee.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I thought that yesterday's incident was closed after the withdrawal of my observations on the floor of the House in view of the assurance given by the Deputy Speaker and acted up later on to permit us to proceed with our supplementary questions. But since the Deputy Speaker desires to raise the issue again and to have a sort of inquisition thereon, I take up the challenge.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Questions.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Appointment of Sub-Deputy Collectors from Education Department.

*40. **Mr. ABUL HOSSAIN AHMAD:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Government have decided to appoint some Sub-Deputy Collectors from among the officers of various departments?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Education Department has been included for such selection?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether qualified English teachers of Government High Schools are eligible for such posts, and

(*ii*) if not, what are the reasons thereof?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) and (*b*) Yes.

(*c*)(*i*) No.

(*ii*) The school teachers, who are accustomed to more or less sedentary work, were not considered suitable for relief and rehabilitation work which requires much energy and ability to do hard touring.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there are any Munsifs working as Magistrates?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Munsifs are trying criminal cases.

Mr. ABUL HOSAIN AHMED: As there must be some deserving teachers and as injustice may not be done towards them, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the cases of exceptionally smart and active young teachers with higher or foreign qualifications?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: In reply to (*c*) (*ii*) I said that they "were" instead of "are"—I have amended it. If the honourable member desires, this question may be re-examined by Government.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that some of the teachers of Government schools have already been transferred to executive services in Calcutta?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have any scheme under contemplation to confirm these officers as Deputy Collectors?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Which officers?

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Officers appointed as Deputy Collectors from different departments.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Appointments as temporary Sub-Deputy Collectors have been made from various branches of service under Government.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have any scheme under contemplation to confirm them?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: At the present moment, as I said, these appointments are purely of a temporary character.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons to the House why Government appointed them from different departments instead of appointing them directly?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Because there was great shortage of officers and as these appointments were purely of a temporary character, Government thought that various officers under various departments should be promoted and given these temporary appointments.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKER: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government contemplates filling up the vacancies that are caused due to the promotion of these officers?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Consequential vacancies—yes.

Medical treatment of Mr. Adwaita Charan Dutta, a security prisoner.

*41. **Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that Mr. Adwaita Charan Dutta, a political security prisoner, was arrested on the 26th September, 1942, during the period of his prolonged illness;

(*ii*) that he was immediately after admitted into the Presidency Jail Hospital;

(*iii*) that he remained there nearly for two months for treatment of inflammation of glands suspected to be of tubercular infection;

(*iv*) that he has since then been suffering from various ailments, viz., (1) chronic pain and burning sensation in the gall bladder region, (2) hernia, (3) pain in kidney region, (4) tonsillitis, (5) filaria and (6) blood pressure; and

(*v*) that he has sent in several petitions including those sent to Inspector-General of Prisons, dated 2nd August, 1943, and to the Home Minister on 15th November, 1943, for treatment in Medical College?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state further whether he is considering the desirability of—

(*i*) releasing him in view of his shattered health on medical grounds; or

(*ii*) sending him to the Medical College Hospitals as an indoor patient for immediate relief?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) He was arrested on the date mentioned but I have no information on his illness prior to his arrest.

(*ii*), (*iii*) and (*v*) Yes.

(*iv*) He complained of chronic pain and burning sensation in the gall-bladder region and pain in kidney region.

(*b*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) The prisoner has already been treated in the Medical College Hospitals from 12th June, 1944, to 1st September, 1944, and is now receiving treatment in jail according to the prescriptions of the Professor of Medicine, Medical College.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has shown any signs of improvement?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the improvements?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It is difficult to answer that question now at this stage, but I can say that after his treatment he is now much better.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister please take it from me that he has not improved since then but he has deteriorated in his health?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir, that is not the information of Government. After his treatment, he is better. The treatment is, of course, continuing under the direction of the Professor of Medicine, Medical College.

Alleged fasting and living on reduced diet by certain security prisoners of Presidency Jail.

*42. **Miss MIRA DUTTA GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether some security prisoners in the Presidency Jail numbering about 12 are living on half diet from the 15th February, last;

(*ii*) whether of such prisoners Srijuts Satindra Nath Sen and Amargopal Nandy, M.A., are living on one diet from the 7th May last; and

(*iii*) whether Srijut Amargopal Nandy has with previous notice commenced a week's fasting from the 14th May last?

(*b*) If the reply to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the steps taken by the prisoners as referred to above are by way of protest against the Government's refusal to allow the security prisoners to contribute to the non-official relief committees from their dietary allowance;

(*ii*) when Government came to know about the facts mentioned in (*a*); and

(*iii*) whether Government have agreed to allow the security prisoners to contribute to official committees by curtailing their dietary allowance?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) Yes, from 15th February, 1944, to the end of June, 1944, since when they are drawing Re. 1 per head per day and leaving the balance from their diet allowance of Re 1-8 for contribution for relief.

(*ii*) Yes, Babu Satin Sen lived on diet equivalent to value of one-third of diet allowance from 7th May, 1944, to 15th June, 1944, and Babu Amar Gopal Nandy did the same from 7th May, 1944, to 13th May, 1944.

(*iii*) Yes, from 14th May, 1944, to 20th May, 1944.

(*b*) (*i*) Yes, that was the cause advanced by them.

(*ii*) On the days following those on which the prisoners took the action referred to.

(*iii*) Security prisoners are allowed to make contributions to any relief organisation from their private cash. Contributions made from savings in the dietary allowance are permitted to be sent to the Bengal Central Relief Fund only. That committee does, so far as is practicable and desirable, pass on all individual contribution received by way of assistance to the organisations—official or non-official—for which they have been earmarked by their donors.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps were taken to prevent the fasting of the prisoners by Government when they received information on the very next day that they had taken recourse to fasting?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I refer the honourable member to reply (*b*) (*iii*) where it is stated that they are permitted to contribute from private cash to any relief organisation, official or non-official. But so far as savings from their dietary allowance are concerned, Government would permit them to send their contributions to the Bengal Central Relief Fund with the proviso that if they are intended to pass on to any non-official organisation, that would be done by the Central Committee.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*b*) (*iii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the Bengal Central Relief Fund has been singled out for having this privileged treatment, and why it is not left to the donors to decide where the money should go?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The honourable member has not understood the answer. The Bengal Central Relief Fund should be given the savings from dietary allowance, but any contribution from private cash can be sent to any organisation. So far as savings from dietary allowances are concerned, the security prisoners should send them on to the Bengal Central Relief Fund on condition that they should be passed on to any other organizations. Those savings could be earmarked for any particular purpose and the Bengal Central Relief Fund would honour those requests.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Why should not they be permitted to contribute direct to other funds?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is a different matter. I am not prepared to answer that.

Release of Mr. Adwaita Charan Dutta, a political security prisoner, on ground of health.

*43. **Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that political security prisoner Mr. Adwaita Charan Dutta was arrested on the 26th September, 1942, during his prolonged illness and since then has been suffering from various ailments, viz., (1) chronic pain, burning sensation and acidity in the deodenum due to peptic ulcer, (2) pain in the kidney region, (3) hernia, (4) gall bladder troubles, (5) tonsillitis, (6) filaria, (7) blood pressure, (8) insomnia, (9) severe headache and (10) constipation;

(*ii*) that he was admitted into the Medical College Hospitals as an indoor patient and underwent treatment under Dr. M. N. De, First Physician and Professor of Medicine, Medical College Hospitals, Calcutta, for more than eleven weeks, i.e., with effect from the 12th June, 1944, to 1st September, 1944;

(*iii*) that Dr. M. N. De, First Physician and Professor of Medicine, has recommended Mr. Adwaita Charan Dutta, to the Government of Bengal, Home Department, to be a fit case for release on medical grounds;

(*iv*) that Mr. Dutta has been sent back to the Presidency Jail without being cured of all his ailments; and

(*v*) that there is no relief or improvement of his ailments which are causing him suffering?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of releasing him unconditionally or even on conditions, if necessary, on medical grounds as recommended by Dr. M. N. De, First Physician and Professor of Medicine, Medical College Hospitals, Calcutta?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) The prisoner has been suffering from chronic pain and burning sensation in the gall-bladder region and pain in the kidney region since his arrest and detention on 26th September, 1942. I have no information on his medical history prior to arrest.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) and (*v*) His treatment in the Medical College Hospitals has been completed and he was discharged on 1st September, 1944. He is, however, still receiving the treatment in jail according to the prescriptions of the Professor of Medicine, Medical College.

(*b*) Arrangements were made to have the prisoner examined by a medical board on 25th November, 1944, to consider the desirability of releasing the prisoner on medical grounds. The Board has expressed the opinion that the prisoner's continued detention is not likely to accentuate the course of his disease and accordingly he has not been released on medical grounds.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the opinion of the Professor of Medicine, Medical College, was taken and considered by the Board?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is a member of the Board?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer given, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable that his case be sent for review by the Medical Board and the Board should consider that in the presence of the Professor of Medicine, Medical College, who is giving him treatment?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is not necessary, because Government really examined the question of releasing the prisoner on medical grounds. He was examined by a number of medical men and the medical men were of opinion that his disease would not in any way be accentuated by his detention.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that this Professor recommended the release of this prisoner on grounds of health?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of that.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that he has answered this question in reply (*a*) (*iii*)?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: May be.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the opinion of the Medical Board was unanimous?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Family allowance of Professor Prafulla Chakravarty detained in Jail.

*44. **Miss MIRA DUTTA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any family allowance has been granted to Professor Prafulla Chakravarty, M.A., now detained in the Barisal Jail and if so, what is the amount;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that Professor Chakravarty was earning about Rs.200 per month when he was at large;

(*c*) what was the pay he was receiving as a Professor;

(*d*) what was he earning by tuition;

(*e*) the reason why he has not been granted allowance equal to what he was earning;

(*f*) whether it is a fact that his old father who is suffering from gastric ulcer is compelled to work because Professor Chakravarty has by his detention been deprived of his income; and

(*g*) the number of dependants of Professor Chakravarty?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Yes. Rs. 50 per month was originally granted with effect from 18th September, 1942, and this has been increased to Rs. 75 per month with effect from 1st April, 1944.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Rs.110 per month.

(*d*) About Rs.100 per month.

(*e*) The amount considered necessary for the support of his father, his only principal dependant, and others has been sanctioned in this case.

(*f*) I have no such information.

(*g*) Principally one (the father, who is also reported to be earning).

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who are the other dependants and what is their number?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: How does the Hon'ble Minister think that this Rs. 75 is sufficient when he does not know who are his dependants and how they are being supported?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The dependants are known, but at the present moment it is not known to me. I shall take time to search for this matter in the file.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that about 7 or 8 members living in the Dacca establishment of the Professor are dependent on his income?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I have not got that information with me. So I cannot reply to that question.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of making a further enquiry into the matter?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is not necessary. Enquiries and everything are completed. I have not got the information with me. Certainly it is with Government, but not with me.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the reply that he was earning about Rs. 210 per month, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what prevents Government from increasing his allowance up to the amount that he was earning?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: This point has been replied to on several occasions when I have explained the policy of Government regarding grant of family allowance and it is not always the question that simply because a certain prisoner was earning a certain amount, that very amount should be sanctioned to him by Government. That has never been the policy of Government.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that his old father who is also infirm and invalid has been compelled to earn, as Rs. 75 is quite inadequate for the maintenance of the dependants of Professor, Prafulla Chakravarty?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Professor Prafulla Chakravarty had been earning more than Rs. 400 per month as pay in the College as well as by private tuition? He was earning about Rs. 200 per month as pay and by private tuition he was also earning nearly Rs. 200.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The information of Government is that he was drawing a salary of Rs. 110 per month and he was earning another Rs. 100 by private tuition.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister please look to his reply (*g*) where it is admitted that his father is reported to be earning, and say why he "asked for notice" in reply to one of my previous questions?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I asked for notice in reply to your question, whether because of the distress in the family he was compelled to earn; but I have already stated that he was earning.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how much his father is earnng now?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that his father had not been earning anything at the time when his son Professor Prafulla Chakravarty was detained as a security prisoner?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer that "the father is also reported to be earning" and in view of the information supplied by me that his father is both infirm and is not capable of earning and has been compelled to earn, because the allowance is an inadequate one, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable that Government should consider this and increase his allowance?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. Government may, if honourable member insists, only re-examine the case.

Security prisoners.

*45. **Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of security prisoners, (*i*) political and (*ii*) non-political detained at present under (I) the Defence of India Act and Rules or Ordinance III of 1944 and (II) the Regulation III;

(*b*) how many political security prisoners made representations as contemplated in section 7 of Ordinance III of 1944, and with what result; and

(*c*) how many of the security prisoners (*i*) political and (*ii*) non-political have been arrested and taken into custody since May, 1943, up to date?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (I) (*i*) One thousand two hundred and eighty-six on the 7th November, 1944.

(*ii*) Two thousand three hundred and sixty-six on the 7th November, 1944.

(II)(*i*) Fifteen on the 7th November, 1944.

(*ii*) Nil on the 7th November, 1944.

(*b*) Such representations were received from about 350 security prisoners only. The representations were duly taken into consideration by the Government at the time of the review of the respective cases as required by section 9 of the Ordinance.

(*c*)(*i*) Two hundred and fifty-five up to the 16th November, 1944.

(*ii*) One hundred and five up to the 29th November, 1944.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want to amend the answer to (*c*)(*ii*) as follows:

"(*ii*) 186 on the 1st of February 1945."

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to bring the answer up-to-date?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: So far as (c)(ii) is concerned I have amended the answer and given the up-to-date figure. But if I am to give up-to-date figures to the other questions I have to ask for notice.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government consider it desirable to enquire and ascertain why out of 1,286 prisoners only 350 made representations and others did not?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is more than what Government can say why security prisoners did not make representations.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Do the Government consider it desirable to enquire and ascertain why they did not make any representations?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not understand why Government should make that enquiry.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Why should they not?

Khan Bahadur MOHMMED ALI: Will the honourable member explain why they should?

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Having regard to the fact that law provides for such representations and that representations were not forthcoming, why should not Government consider it their duty to enquire and ascertain why as many as nearly 900 prisoners did not make any representation at all?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It is for the prisoners to make representations or not. Government cannot compel them to make representations. If 900 prisoners choose not to make any representations it is their business.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Having regard to the fact that evidently these prisoners have no confidence in replying to those persons who have got them arrested, will the Government consider it desirable to set up a committee of judicial officers to consider their representations and give the security prisoners a further opportunity to make representations?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that the security prisoners do not like to send representations for the reason that the grounds of detention as required by the Ordinance III of 1944 to be sent to them are all stereotyped and do not disclose any definite reasons for their detention?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: They have to be more or less stereotyped because the charges against all these prisoners are more or less the same, but Government cannot disclose all the charges in detail because it would not be in the interest of public security.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer just now given, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how the prisoners are expected to state their defence if the charges are not definite so that they can understand what the charges are against them?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The general grounds and charges are given and if the security prisoners so like they can give after learning the general details of the charges.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in many cases no charges have been formulated as yet though more than 6 months have elapsed?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. That is not my information.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in framing the grounds of detention in many cases it has been assumed that the party concerned knows the grounds and that nothing more need be disclosed?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. Some indication is given in the charges.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in some cases only Police officers go and talk to some of them instead of giving them any grounds and afterwards the order is renewed?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is done at the time or just before the time of review of the cases of security prisoners to ascertain the attitude or frame of mind of these prisoners and to find out whether there has been any change in them or not.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Does the Hon'ble Minister say that the Police officers decide whether a case is to be reviewed or not?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. What the honourable member refers to is the interview with the security prisoner of the Police Officer to ascertain if there has been any *bona fide* change of front or attitude in the mind of the prisoners.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how the prisoners can be expected to make any representation at all if no specific charges are communicated to them?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Charges are communicated to the security prisoners.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Do I understand the Hon'ble Minister to say that in every case a specific and particular charge is communicated or has been communicated to the security prisoner?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know what the honourable member means by the term "specific". I have already explained that for security reasons details cannot be given but indications of the charges are given.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he can cite an instance in which the charges have been set out or communicated and can he read out any form of the charges?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot do it now.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that only the wording of the section is repeated in a printed paper and given to the security prisoners without indicating any precise charges?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that security prisoners have asked for further clarification of the charges in their communications to Government?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir. Some of them have done so.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Have the Government responded in those cases by clarifying those charges as desired by security prisoners?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already explained the position. I have nothing further to add.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Is the Government aware that provisions under the new Ordinance have been reduced to a fiasco by the procedure adopted by Government in the formulation of the charges?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The provisions of the Ordinance have been carried out by Government.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister in a position to state whether for security reasons the charges cannot be given confidentially to the parties concerned?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Charges have been given to the parties concerned.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Are the details of the accusations or allegations made against each individual security prisoner giving an indication of the nature of offence he is supposed to have committed given to him or supplied to him?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already explained the reasons why full details cannot be supplied.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Are any details of any character given?

Khan Bahadur MOHMMED ALI: A general indication is given.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is there any difference between the charges communicated to one security prisoner and another or is there one form equally for all?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There is no difference if the nature of the charge is the same.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that the provision of Rule 7 of Ordinance III of 1944 is mandatory and what the legal charge means has been defined in the existing law and requires that it should be very definite and given in detail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is a matter of legal opinion.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Is it not a fact that these arrests are in the nature of preventive arrests?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, some of them are.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether all the charges are worded in the same language without any change whatsoever in every case?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: In cases where the nature of the charges is the same obviously the language will be the same.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Is it not a fact that Government find it very difficult to give positive charges because these prisoners have not been guilty of any act prejudicial to the peace of the country?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Some of them may be of that type and some have been guilty of prejudicial acts.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Is it one of the objects of Government in formulating these charges that no effective answer can be given by the security prisoners so as to deserve release.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No.

Adjournment Motion.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, I gave notice of an adjournment motion on cloth famine in the province and the Hon'ble Speaker has been pleased to give his consent.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, you have got an identical motion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The motions are not identical. Mr. Sen's motion is slightly different, but I will not stand in the way.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Sen.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, may I have the leave of the House to move the motion?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, I beg leave of the House to move the following motion:—

"The business of the Assembly do now stand——"

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, with great respect to the Chair I would like to point out that according to the convention of the House the motion is not read out at this stage.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The consent has been given and he will now read out the motion and ask the House whether the House will give him the leave to move it.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I submit, Sir, what has hitherto been the practice is that the notice of the motion is given to the Speaker who gives his consent. Thereafter the Speaker is fully aware of it, the other side is fully aware of it and so is the Government, and then the Speaker asks whether Government has any objection to it and what are the reasons in possession of Government to show that the motion should not be moved.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The motion is there. The House is not discussing the motion now. He will simply read out the motion and then he will hand over the copy of the motion and the statement to me, and I will ask the House to give the leave.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, my motion runs as follows: "The business of the Assembly do now stand adjourned to discuss a matter of definite and urgent public importance, namely, the failure of the Government to prevent the acute and unprecedented cloth famine that has overtaken the province at this moment." May I have the leave of the House?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is the statement supplied by the mover: "Information coming from different sources shows that an acute and unprecedented cloth famine has overtaken this province at this moment. In some places cloth is literally not available: in others the little that is available is not properly distributed. Instances have been known of men spending their days in tattered rags tied round their bodies and women not being able to come out of door having practically no cloth to cover their shame. Government have adopted no effective measures to combat the famine. From all indications it is apprehended that the situation may worsen in the next three or four months, the Government having resorted to no planning to avert it." Is there any objection?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Yes, Sir. I do not object on the ground of its importance. I do not pretend that this is not an important matter. It is a matter of importance and I think, Sir, that the House and the public should at some time or other be apprised of the actual situation in respect of the supply and distribution of cloth. But, Sir, what I do say is this: this cannot arise as an adjournment motion. In the first place it should have been moved much earlier. Day before yesterday after I returned from my tour I asked why the motion had not been moved.

Dr. Sanyal was good enough to say that the motion had not been moved because he did not think that I was coming back. Yesterday I was present here during the question time.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Was that all I said?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Dr. Sanyal afterwards said that on Thursday, at about 4-30 p.m., he proposed to move this motion, and I said, he might do so but it would be subject to my objection.

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: On a point of order, Sir. The question before the House is whether leave should be given to the mover to move the motion. If the Hon'ble Minister wants to give an explanation as he is now offering, he could do so when replying to the motion, but not now. It is irrelevant.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have allowed him.

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: He has made the people naked, and he is now making a farce of the whole thing when the mothers and sisters are almost naked. Is he to be allowed to indulge in irrelevant talk in this way?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, with great respect for the Leader of the Opposition I should say that if anybody is indulging in irrelevant talks it is the Leader of the Opposition himself.

Yesterday, Sir, I thought that the motion would be moved because whatever the arrangement might have been—at half-past four or at any other hour—it was the duty of the Opposition or anybody else desiring to move the adjournment motion to do so at the earliest opportunity. Now, Sir, it was not moved yesterday.

Another point that I wish to point out is this: this is the Budget session and adjournment motions are permitted to be moved when there is no opportunity of ventilating the grievances of the House. During the Budget session there is ample opportunity to do so and any number of members can speak; and when my own motion will be moved the honourable members will have full opportunity of discussing it and I shall have a full opportunity to reply to it.

(At this stage those who were in favour of the motion were asked to rise in their seats. They did so and the number was counted.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Leave has been given and the matter will be taken up at 5-30 p.m. today.

General Discussion of the Budget.

Mr. DEBI PRASAD KHAITAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for several years I have not taken part in the general discussion of the Budget but this year I feel that it is desirable to say a few words in connection with the programme that has been put forward by the Hon'ble Finance Minister as regards the future. I have had the advantage of reading the press reports of the speeches in the general discussion of the budget delivered by Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal and Mr. D. N. Sen and I fully agree with what they have said in regard to the rupees, annas and pies of the budget. It is not my desire to detain this House by repeating what they have said. It seems to me that money has been wasted extravagantly without adequate arrangements being made for the development of the province and for putting right the grievances that exist in Bengal. It is the misfortune of Bengal that constructive schemes have not even been prepared, far less put into action in order to remove this scarcity that exists in every direction in regard to every commodity that the consumer needs. Far less have steps been taken to improve the condition of education, etc., which is so much needed. People have been going on starving, diseased and naked and although some words have been said by the Hon'ble Finance Minister in introducing the

budget that something is being done, the House has not been informed of what schemes have been prepared by the Government of Bengal, what steps have been taken for immediate remedy of the grievances that exist in this province and what steps have been taken to prepare post-war schemes and what pressure has been brought upon the Government of India to remedy the situation permanently. On the other hand, we find that while the other provinces are going to get cloth at the rate of 18 yards per head Bengal has to remain satisfied with only 10 yards per head. Sir, it is of the utmost importance to see that more cotton mills are erected in Bengal of suitable economic sizes so that not only could the deficiency in yarn and cloth be met to a certain extent during this emergency and during the war but that the future may be made safer than it has been in the past and it is at present. But the Finance Minister is absolutely silent on that point.

As regards the growth of more foodgrains, again, although we read the words "Irrigation", "Fertilizer", etc., the Finance Minister has not taken the House into confidence as regards the steps that are proposed to be taken by the Government of Bengal. In fact, Sir, to open out the country I have been reliably informed when the Railway Board's representatives came to Bengal, a small committee of Bengal represented to them that in future only about 100 to 150 miles of railways were needed to open out the country. How ridiculous and ludicrous that figure is. Everybody who has seen the map of Bengal cursorily knows how many thousand miles of railways, how many thousand miles of road are needed to open out the country, but when we see the attitude of the Government of Bengal it seems to us that either the Government are incapable of understanding these things or they are simply playing with the problems that afflict Bengal, that have afflicted Bengal in the recent past and are bound to afflict this province in the near future and in the remote future. Sir, it is desirable that something should urgently and immediately be done so that the shortages that exist in this province be removed not in the post-war period but immediately and during the war.

Debts have grown up. The figures that have been given out by the Hon'ble Finance Minister could not be resented by anybody if only constructive steps had been taken and are contemplated to be taken by Government in future. But what has really happened is that no constructive schemes have been put forward, no constructive schemes are contemplated so far as we are aware but simply money has been wasted as a large quantity of foodgrains has been wasted for faulty storing and for other reasons. Sir, unless the Government give us constructive schemes it is impossible to understand how they propose to remove our grievances.

Sir, it is not my desire to take up the time of the House longer because a very urgent adjournment motion is coming up for consideration. But I do hope that in the closing parts of this debate the Government will take the House more into confidence and make suitable arrangements so that our grievances may be removed.

Miss MIRA DUTTA GUPTA: Sir, the Hon'ble Minister has treated the House once again to a very dismal story of the finances of the province. Two years of his close association with his new collaborators has turned him into a disillusioned, cynical and unhappy man—a man devoid of vision, foresight and inspiration. His speech contains a series of apologies for the sorry state of affairs of the province but no suggestion of how to overcome the difficulties. His statement leaves us uninspired. In spite of his assurances we are not convinced that the present calamity is the result of the war and its aftermath. Rather, it is the result of the sins of the present Ministry, its incompetence and its unworthy conduct of the affairs of the Government.

We once again state emphatically that it is the present Ministry and its mismanagement which are the causes of all the woes and sorrows of the province. The present Ministry therefore stands condemned before the

tribune of the people of the province. It stands condemned because it has proved itself wholly incompetent to provide for the barest requirements for nutrition, clothing, shelter and medical attention of the people.

It is unthinkable that sensible men at the head of the affairs of the State would let food and grains rot in warehouses while people should starve. A large part of the deficit in the budget has been sought to be explained away by so-called trading losses in foodgrains in the Civil Supplies Department. This explanation does not convince us. This House still remembers the story of Government Agents and party-supporters buying foodgrains at Rs. 8 per maund and selling to the Government at Rs. 32 to Rs. 37 per maund. One suspects that the condemned stocks of grains and food which the Government says were decomposed in course of storage—at least a large part of it was initially unfit for human consumption before the stocks arrived at the Gvernment warehouses. This House should insist on a thorough-going enquiry into the matter of decomposed grains and food in Government warehouses.

This brings us to the question of cloth. It is common knowledge that there is acute shortage of cloth in the province. The Government has not yet been able to unearth the large secret hoards because its executives are not seriously minded to do so. These people have made a business out of prosecuting petty traders on insignificant charges while leaving the big black-market operators alone.

With regard to housing, the Government sets up the universal excuse "There is a war on". It happened some short while ago that the Ministers and the Governor of the province discovered that a large population of Calcutta was living in *bustees* and hutments unworthy of occupation even by animals. We dare say these platitudes will be repeated but nothing will be done.

We are informed by the Hon'ble Minister that "Bengal has not been able so far to float any loans for productive purposes ..... Our debts so far have been all unproductive debts....." Why is this so? It is because this Ministry is not really interested in the general welfare of the province. The Ministry is only interested in keeping itself in power in the good books of the Europeans, in distributing patronage, creating many and more employment for its supporters—in wasting thus the revenue of the province.

We are confident that if the Ministry so desired it could plan and float a loan for improvement of housing of Calcutta, for the irrigation, flood-control and electrification of the Damodar and Brahmaputra Valleys. These last undertakings, I venture to say, would change the whole face of Bengal.

I say, Sir, that the budget presented by the Hon'ble Minister fully reflects the character of the present Ministry—its lack of imagination, plan, its incompetence and its utter lack of sympathy for the people of the province. (Applause from the Opposition benches.)

Mr. D. CLADDING: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if ever a province was seemingly out of favour with the gods, that province is Bengal. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: If you do believe in the gods!) (Laughter.) In pre-reform days she was financed by the Centre according to her needs, like other provinces. Ever since then, at every turn of the financial wheel, she has been out of luck: out of luck on the income side by reason of the Meston and Niemeyer settlements; and now out of luck on the expenditure side by reason of war and famine, both of which elected to make this province the almost exclusive seat of their operations in India. The way in which mountainous revenues, exceeding anything imagined before the war, have been levelled to the ground in this province during the last six years and turned instead into valleys of debt is pitiful and, when we compare our case with that of other provinces, is positively infuriating. As I said last year, in emergencies such as war and famine, the present financial constitution of India is all wrong. The public revenues, instead of being able to flow, as they would have flowed in pre-reform days, to the hollow places

where they are most required, are locked up in separate reservoirs jealously guarded by other Governments; and it makes no sense at all. As I said last year, it is for the Centre to find a remedy for this absurd position, and I propose, once again, to talk about very little else.

The estimates presented by Mr. Goswami show that our position is very much worse than he prophesied a year ago. His budget statement describes the measures which have been taken to deal with our emergencies and, with one big exception, throws great light upon them. The exception is the Trading Account of Government's various procurement operations. We hope to hear a good deal more in explanation of the losses under this head before these debates are over. Mr. D. N. Sen, in a businesslike speech for which we should all be grateful, put some very trenchant questions on this subject on Tuesday evening. I trust that those questions will receive clear answers from the Finance Minister or the Food Minister or, better still, from both of them.

Importance attaches to Statement II of the supplement to Mr. Goswami's speech. It endeavours to give us, what we could not have extracted for ourselves from the Red Book, an idea of the amount of the expenditure in these estimates which is debitable to war conditions and the famine. It does not claim, I presume, to be perfect: it does not include, for instance, as far as I can see, the interest of about a crore that is payable on the loans that have had to be raised to finance this expenditure; and it leaves out of account the big advances to the Calcutta Corporation which before long will surely have to be turned into out-and-out subsidies, in part if not in whole. Nor does it claim, I presume, to be a statement of expenditure that is all peculiar to this province: dearness concessions, for instance, are found throughout India. Nor, I expect, does it claim to be a statement of expenditure all of which will disappear when the emergencies are over: some of the items, under public health for instance, will surely be reflected in permanent expenditure when the emergency is over? But it is a useful statement for all that, and helps us to see where we stand. I should have been glad to see another statement as well, dealing with the increase in our expenditure during the same three years outside this field of war conditions and famine. If you subtract the totals in Mr. Goswami's statement II from the totals in his Statement I, you will find that expenditure outside this emergency field increases, by 5½ crores in 1944-45 and by a further 1¼ crores in 1945-46. Believing, as I do, that our present sources of revenue are unlikely to yield more than 18 crores in the worst years that will succeed the war, I am (with Mr. D. N. Sen) a little worried to find that our expenditure next year will amount to 19¼ crores apart from everything that is included in Statement II. I would be less worried if we had been building up a revenue equalisation reserve; but we have, of course, been doing nothing of the kind.

And now for our general financial position, and what is to be done about it. Since the war began the improvement in our receipts over the norm of 13 crores will amount to 34½ crores by the end of this year, not including the 7 crores subvention obtained this year from the Centre; and will amount to 50 crores by the end of next year if Mr. Goswami's estimate of 28¾ crores next year is realised. The increase of expenditure, however, over the norm of 13 crores before the war will amount to 56½ crores by the end of this year, and will amount to 81 crores by the end of next year if Mr. Goswami's estimate of 37¼ crores next year is realised. Putting these two results together, we shall find ourselves, at the end of next year, 31 crores in revenue deficit despite a growth of revenue by 50 crores. To cover this and our ways and means requirements and our operations in the food market, etc., we shall have borrowed 106 crores; and our net indebtedness, if Mr. Goswami's valuation of our assets in his Statement III is correct, will be 19¼ crores. If his valuation proves to be an over-estimate, which I fear to be most dangerously possible, our net indebtedness will be greater. As we are not sitting in camera, I will not disclose what I think it will actually prove to be.

If all the provinces were in similar case, the set-up would be quite different: we should all be in the same boat, and the Centre would be facing a united clamour for funds instead of a special appeal from us. But the provinces are far from being all in the same boat. Bombay, Madras, the Punjab, the United Provinces, and the Central Provinces, to go no further than these, have accumulated surpluses during the war while we have accumulated deficits. The following are some figures for Bengal, and some figures for Bombay and Madras which I have compiled from press communiques issued by those Governments in August last when they, at the same time as the Central Provinces, the Punjab and the United Provinces, were floating loans for certain remunerative purposes. In these communiques they described their financial position, including their surpluses on Revenue Account since the war began. If the Punjab and the United Provinces issued similar statements, I cannot find them; but they too, as we all know, have done well out of the war.

Bombay.	Madras.	Bengal.
Surplus (+) or deficit (−) in lakhs of rupees.		
1938-39 + 15 1939-40 + 56 1940-41 + 187½ 1941-42 + 288	A surplus every year: amounts not stated.	All square +60·42 −90·89 −123·15
1942-43 + 351	+ 125·56	−91·04
1943-44 + 571	Expected to show a surplus. Let us call it + 200.	− 303·46
1944-45 + 450 (taken from their Budget for 1944-45). + 19,18½	+ 554·77	−11,34·82 −15,82·94

So while Bengal has accumulated a revenue deficit of 1,583 lakhs, Bombay has accumulated a revenue surplus of 1,918½ lakhs and Madras has accumulated a revenue surplus of I don't know what, which may possibly be of the order of 800 or 900 lakhs. Bombay in her press communique went on to say: "In view of these surpluses, sums amounting to Rs. 472 lakhs were transferred to the Special Development Fund during 1938-39 to 1943-44 and sums amounting to Rs. 250 lakhs were transferred to the Revenue Reserve (Post-War Reconstruction) Fund in 1942-43 and 1943-44."

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. D. CLADDING: When we adjourned I was quoting extracts from the prospectuses of the provinces of Bombay and Madras when they were advertising for their loans last August. Bombay ended up by saying that "after transferring these amounts, and investing a sum of Rs. 75 lakhs in long-dated securities, the free balance which stood at 63 lakhs at the end of 1936-37, rose to about 790 lakhs at the end of 1943-44. The free balance is being utilised for financing capital advances to Civil Supply schemes".

The Bombay budget estimates for 1944-45 provide for a further transfer of 450 lakhs to the Revenue Reserve (Post-War Reconstruction) Fund, raising that Fund to a total of 583 lakhs.

Madras was not so communicative, but she said that her budget estimates provide for a transfer out of the revenue surplus of a sum of 554·77 lakhs to her Revenue Reserve Fund in 1945; and her budget estimates for 1944-45 showed that this would bring that Fund to a total of 601 lakhs.

I repeat that these contrasts between us and the other provinces make a very great difference to the case. To my mind (and I believe I am *compos mentis*) they make it incumbent upon the Centre to come to our assistance not merely in terms of our own accounts but also to the effect of helping us to hold our own with the other provinces immediately after the war. We know that the Centre has already helped us considerably, but what do we know about their general attitude to our case? I will tell you, Sir. In the debates on the Central budget last year, the leader of the European Party took up the cudgels on our behalf and appears to have quoted the sentence from my speech which said "our financial position is broken beyond the remedy of any action which we can in fairness be asked to take". Now listen to what Sir Jeremy Raisman said in reply:—

"Sir, I have the deepest sympathy for Bengal in its present plight and I have always felt that some financial assistance from the Central Government would be inevitable and would be desirable and necessary in order to assist Bengal to extricate herself from the calamitous difficulties into which she has fallen."

"Bengal more than any other province has suffered from the disadvantages of war just as the Centre has, and for that reason in view of my own financial difficulties, I can appreciate that the Bengal Government are faced with problems of a peculiarly difficult kind. At the same time we should not exaggerate the extent of the harm which so far has been done to the finances of the province. There was a quotation of a remark made in the Bengal Assembly which seemed to suggest that somebody took a very gloomy view indeed of those finances. It is true that Bengal at the moment is passing through a very bad time. But Bengal's permanent financial position is not as desperate as has been suggested. I have before me certain figures in regard to the budget for the current year * * * * *."

"DR. P. N. BANERJEE (CALCUTTA SUBURBS: NON-MUHAMMADAN URBAN): Have they not been compelled to levy extra taxation?

THE HON'BLE SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: Certainly. So have I. I have no sympathy for any Finance Minister who will not face up to his obligation and levy taxation when he faces deficits. I have to undergo that unpleasant duty, and I do not see why anybody else should be let off.

DR. P. N. BANERJEE: But the conditions in Bengal are very bad.

THE HON'BLE SIR JEREMY RAISMAN: The Central Government share one attribute of the deity—they help those who help themselves"

Later on Sir Jeremy said:—

"We must remember, after all, that a certain balance has to be maintained between the finances of the Centre and of the provinces and we must have regard to maintaining a sense of financial responsibility in all the units. If the Centre is to relieve provinces from time to time of their responsibility there is a danger of undermining the whole financial responsibility of the provinces. Province A would naturally say, "Well, if we get into difficulties, we can always expect the Centre to help us out, as they did when province B was in difficulties." and again:—

"My main point is this. Although at the present moment Bengal is undergoing great difficulties, her financial position is by no means a bad one." * * "At the end of these two very trying years she is, as far as we can see at present, unlikely to be in debt to a greater extent than something of the order of Rs. 12/14 crores. Well, no Government whose national debt is less than a single year's revenue, can be said to be hopelessly in debt."

"I say this not to minimise the desirability of assisting Bengal in the exceptional circumstances, but to counteract the suggestion that

Bengal is as it were bankrupt or insolvent. That is far from being the case. Her total debt even by the end of next year will be quite modest in relation to her revenue and the service of that debt will not be an intolerable burden on the province. In these circumstances we do feel that the assistance which we have offered to Bengal, having regard to our own difficulties, cannot be said to be inadequate".

Well, Sir, that is clear enough in all conscience. We can't complain that we don't know what we are up against. We are accused of whining without justification, and of representing that an indebtedness of 14 or 15 crores would turn us bankrupt. We made no such contention. What we contended was that, having regard to the special pitch to which our war expenditure, including famine expenditure, had been forced by Bengal's geographical position; and having regard to the continued expenditure for civil defence, etc., which some other provinces had already been able to abandon; and having regard to the large surpluses which war conditions had enabled other major provinces to build up, Bengal ought not, in fairness, to be asked to carry such a burden of debt. Something ought to be done so as to relieve her of it, that she, like other provinces, might be in funds for post-war purposes. Reasons of high politics alone, apart from mere financial equity, ought to make this obvious to His Majesty's Government at Delhi. We seem to be accused of possibly not having "helped ourselves" by raising provincial taxes as we might have done. If that was the accusation, it was most unfair; we have exploited our local sources of revenue since the war began as much as any other province, and more than some of them. There is no mention of the surpluses of other provinces and, instead of admitting that we deserve more than merely to be saved from bankruptcy, Sir Jeremy leaves it to be supposed that we shall have to be content with being saved from bankruptcy lest it undermine our sense of financial responsibility and have the same effect, if you please, in other provinces. In other words, unless the Centre can be made to think again, the plan seems to be that, when we emerge from this war, we shall at best be expected to face the future with a debt that is a multiple of a year's revenue, and with no surpluses at all to our credit.

If what I have just said is correct, the position is most serious and calls for vigorous protest. I should like to know what the Bengal Government, who presumably studied these remarks of Sir Jeremy Raisman and have, by their own account, been having talks with him, have precisely done about it. In what precise terms have they endeavoured to counter this niggardly attitude of the Central Finance Department? I have an uneasy feeling, from the remarks on this subject in the Finance Minister's speech, that the idea of demanding to be put into surplus funds, and not merely on to an even keel, may have been abandoned. I trust that I am wrong. Have Government put their case on to paper and have they taken the important step of putting it on to paper in official, as opposed to mere demi-official, form? If so, can they let the House see a copy of the document, if not also a copy of the Central Government's reply? If they have not yet addressed the Government of India in official terms, will they kindly make good this omission as soon as possible? The time may come when the existence of official papers on the subject may be of the greatest importance.

Sir Jeremy Raisman will, perhaps, be saying something again about this matter in the impending budget debates at the Centre. I hope he does and that what he says will be a great improvement upon his previous utterances as I have interpreted them. It will, however, be his last budget debate and, quite conceivably, he may say that a final settlement of the matter must be left to his successor; just as, if you remember, Sir, some ten years ago Sir George Schuster left to Sir James Grigg the final decision whether we should be given the 50 per cent. of the jute export duty in relief of our difficulties under the Meston Award. However that may be, I think it fortunate for us that Sir Archibald Rowlands has been living in our midst and studying conditions in this province. He will carry with him into the

Government of India a first-hand knowledge of our difficulties, and a first-hand knowledge of our deep feelings on the subject; and one of his first official acts, without a doubt, will be to call for the file so that he may see what the Government of India can, in real fairness, do about it. I know one of the things that I would do if I were in his position but, as we are not sitting in camera, I will not divulge it. It might raise Cain in the surplus provinces.

Srijut ASHUTOSH MULLICK : মিঃ ডেপুটী স্পীকার, স্যার, ঘাটতি বাজেট অর্থাৎ আয়ের অঙ্ক উপেক্ষা করে বাজেটস্থ আলোচনা, আর রামকে বাদ দিয়ে রামায়ন গান, একই কথা। এবারকার বাজেট রামায়নের গোস্বামীকৃত তুলসীদাসী তৃতীয় সংস্করণে ঋণগ্রস্তা বঙ্গলক্ষীর কেন্দ্রীয় দশাননের নিকট বারম্বার আবেদন-নিবেদনের জলন্ত ইতিহাস। এবং তার উপসংহার শোকাকুলা শ্রীবিহীন রাজলক্ষীর ন্যায্য দাবীর প্রার্থনায় অশোক কাননে করুণ ক্রন্দন অর্থাৎ অভাব পূরণের জন্য ভিক্ষাপাত্র হস্তে অরণ্যে রোদন। আর বাজেট বক্তৃতায় ফলপ্রসূ কর্ম্মশক্তির বিকাশ নাই, ভাববিলাস আছে। আত্মনির্ভরশীলতা নাই, সৌধিন মতবাদ আছে। সাহস নাই, শঠতা আছে। প্রতিভা নাই, অনুকরণপটুতা আছে।

বাংলা সরকারের বাজেট রচয়িতা অর্থসচিবপুঙ্গব ঘাটতি বাজেট রচনার champion. তিনি তাঁর বাজেট বক্তৃতায় বাংলা সরকারের সুপরিস্ফুট দৈন্য, ভূত-ভবিষ্যত-বর্ত্তমান ত্রিকাল সত্যতা সপ্রমাণ করে নিশ্চিন্ত হয়েছেন। ১৯৪৩-৪৪ সালের তিন কোটি টাকার ঘাটতি বৃদ্ধি পেয়ে ১৯৪৪-৪৫ সালে ১১ কোটি টাকায় উঠেছে এবং আগামী ১৯৪৫-৪৬ সালের অবস্থাও অনুরূপ সঙ্কটজনক। এই সতর্কবাণী প্রচার করে মন্ত্রী মহাশয় আমাদিগকে শাসিয়েছেন। কিন্তু বিগত কয়েক বৎসর পূর্ব্বের আয়ের সহিত বর্ত্তমান বৎসরের আয় বৃদ্ধির তুলনা করিলে নিঃসন্দেহে দেখা যাবে যে নানা বিপর্য্যয় সত্ত্বেও অত্যধিক অপব্যয় ও খাদ্যশস্য অপচয় জনিত অযথা ব্যয় না হ'লে বাংলা সরকার অনায়াসে এই বিরাট ঋণের দায়িত্বের হাত হইতে কবলমুক্ত হ'তে পারতো।

বিরাট ঘাটতির তুলনায় এবং অন্যায় অপব্যয়ের অনুপাতে রাজস্ব খাতে আয় ঘাটতি পরিচয়ের "ফুলাক্কতীবৎ" দিক্‌দর্শন মাত্র। আলোচ্য তিন সনে সর্ব্ব সমেত ঘাটতির পরিমাণ কিঞ্চিৎ ন্যূন তেইশ কোটি টাকা। ভাবগতিক থেকে মনে হয়, এইভাবে ক্রমাগত অস্বাভাবিক অপব্যয়ের মাত্রা বৃদ্ধি পেলে বাংলা সরকার কত যুগ পরে মাথা তুলে দাঁড়াতে পারবে কিম্বা আদৌ দাঁড়াতে পারবে কি না সে বিষয়ে গুরুতর সন্দেহ আছে। বাংলার বিপুল সম্পদের অতীতের পরিচয়ে আমরা আর গৌরব অনুভব করতে পারি না। সেটা অত্যন্ত দুঃখের বিষয়। এই লজ্জা নিঃশব্দে হজম না করেও উপায় নাই। কারণ এর বিরুদ্ধে নালিশ করতে হ'লে আপীল আদালতের জজ্ পাওয়া যায় না। এবং মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বাংলা সরকারের অতলস্পর্শী ক্রমবর্দ্ধমান ঋণ পরিশোধের সম্ভাবনা সম্পর্কে কোন আশার বাণীই শোনাইতে পারেন নাই। এমন কি তদ্বিষয়ে কোন পরিকল্পনা পর্য্যন্ত কৌশলে দুর্ব্বোধ্য তুলসীদাসী দোঁহা আওড়িয়ে উড়িয়ে দিয়ে কর্ত্তব্য শেষ করেছেন।

Adjournment Motion.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the business of the Assembly do now stand adjourned to discuss a matter of definite and urgent public importance and of recent occurrence, namely, the failure of Government to tackle the acute and unprecedented cloth famine that has overtaken the province at the present moment.

Sir, it is known that there is an acute and unprecedented scarcity of cloth prevailing in all parts of Bengal at this moment. I would call it a cloth famine. In some places cloth, either *dhotis* or *sarees*, is literally not available. If one will look up any one day's newspapers one will find this story coming from difierent places through responsible news agencies who by no stretch of imagination can be said to have any political axe to grind, viz., to embarrass the Government. While thinking of this subject I had a cursory glance at two leading dailies of Calcutta, *viz.*, the *Hindusthan Standard* of the 16th and the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* of the 18th instant. I found two whole columns giving a gloomy picture of the cloth famine in the province. From Barisal came the news "an acute cloth crisis", from Narayanganj "cloth scarcity", from Berhampore "extreme scarcity of cloth", from Bogra "an acute shortage of cloth", from Dinajpur "want of cloth", from Faridpur "cloth not available even

for burial and cremation purposes, from Natore "cloth not at all available" and so forth and so on. Thus goes on from day to day the never-ending picture reel depicting the cloth famine in Bengal.

But need we have to depend on newspaper reports for a correct understanding of the situation? Every member of this House who does not spend his time between the Writers' Buildings and the pleasure resorts of the city must know that there is a devastating cloth famine in the province at this moment. In my own district I have known cases of men spending months with tattered rags tied round their bodies. I have known cases of women not being able to come outdoors having practically no cloth to cover their shame. I have seen respectable and till the other day *purdanashin* ladies standing for hours in the blazing sun for a pair of *sarees* and returning exhausted and disappointed after a long endurance test. I have seen some of them going from Dacca to Narayanganj by rail to try their chance for a pair of *sarees* but returning with no better experience than in their own city. One day a gentleman came to my place at Dacca from Joydebpur in Bhowal pargana. He all but fell at my feet and implored me to procure a pair of *sarees* for his wife who, as he told me, was staying at home almost naked.

Sir, I need not multiply instances for knowing Bengal intimately as you do you must appreciate that the picture that I have drawn of the cloth famine is not in the least overdrawn but is a faithful and moderate representation of the existing situation. The question that I ask is, could not this famine be to some extent averted by the Government if they had the will to? My answer to this question is an emphatic "yes". What was necessary was first to increase supply, secondly to prevent any portion of it from going to the black-market and thirdly a fair equitable rationing and distribution of the available stock through representative committees. With regard to supply this Government should have first of all persuaded the Central Government to increase Bengal's quota. It is known that Bengal has been given the lowest quota in India. While the Punjab has got 18 yards per head per year Bengal has got only ten yards. This allotment is no less iniquitous than the notorious Niemeyer Award. To our misfortune this Government have not made any attempt worth the name to have the quota revised in Bengal's favour. To add to this bungling comes the alarming news that in pursuance of instructions from the Central Government they are diverting a portion of this quota for the neighbouring State of Tibet. It is unthinkable that of all provinces Bengal which is in the grip of a cloth famine should be asked to contribute from its meagre quota for relief abroad. This must be resisted or the Government should resign.

Under the head "supply", more important than increasing the quota is the question of increasing the internal production. In no other field has the Government's masterly inactivity been shown in a more marked degree than in this field. It was incumbent upon the Government to help the few existing cotton mills to work 24 hours with maximum productivity by supplying them what they needed most including fuel, yarn and other procurable articles. More criminal inactivity on the part of Government has been to allow the about 2 lakhs of handlooms in the province to lie idle while it is in the grip of a cloth famine. They had sufficient time to move proper quarters for procurement of yarn for the looms. They might even start two or three spinning mills by this time to feed the looms. I know for certain that quite usable second-hand machinery for two or three spinning mills is available within the country not far away from the province. With these facilities within their reach what the Government have done so far towards supply of yarn is extremely disappointing. In the first place, we had from time to time press announcements to the effect that the Government were procuring yarn for distribution among handloom weavers. We do not know how much yarn was

procured or if any was procured, but we know that places that needed it most did not get it. My own district, Dacca, with its about 50,000 looms get practically nothing.

Then, Sir, we had the press announcement that our Hon'ble and scheming Commerce Minister had assured some people in North Bengal some time back that Government would before long start a few spinning mills in the province. Let us see before how long at least whether before the whole of Bengal goes naked and the weaving community becomes extinct.

Lastly comes the most amazing piece of news that the Government who profess their anxiety to root out black-market from the province have appointed as their sole distributor of yarn a person who is a black prince among profiteers and who has never known cotton yarn in his life. Of course he knows the art of exploiting big names. He has even gone the length of extending his princely but purposeful hospitality to the Governor of the province whom he has injured without his knowledge. He knows the art of greasing the proper hands. He has extended his purposeful hospitality to the Hon'ble Chief Minister and some other Ministers including the Minister for Civil Supplies. With his social status thus raised by his association with the highest in the land, he thinks that he can defy public opinion with immunity, he can defy the governmental authority with immunity because there is none at least so far as he is concerned. He knows how to share his spoils with his patron or patrons in the Ministry. With such a man in charge of distribution of yarn, no one should expect an improvement in the yarn position and none is discernible so far.

Sir, this brings us to the question of the black-market. This dangerous social phenomenon which admittedly is the cause of much of our misery today is trotted out by the Government in season and out of season as the only cause of our misery in the matter of cloth. I know there are greedy profiteers among our countrymen who thrive by black-market but why, I ask, have Government not been able to root it out by an iron hand? Why have they done nothing so far beyond issuing a plethora of pious proclamations and ordinances against black-market? My answer and every reasonable man's answer to this question is, because there is not the will to do anything more. Sir, I refuse to believe that a Government, who have the machinery to report as to what subversive literature a boy in a distant village reads and what company he keeps, cannot ascertain who is who and what is what in the black-market of the city. The truth is that the whole governmental machinery, the Ministry and the department alike, from top to bottom—may be, with a few honourable exceptions here and there—is a body of bribe-takers who thrive because of the black-market and do not want it to go. Who will remedy this is the question. Nothing very hopeful can be expected unless the suffering people themselves have a dominant voice in the Government. If the present Government are not prepared to liquidate themselves to make room for a real people's Government including ungrabbing and honest representatives of their party as well as of others, they should at least agree to delegate the task of distribution of cloth to representative committees of consumers and Government keeping the consumers' interests primarily in mind, somewhat on the lines of the Dacca Mohalla Rationing Committees which unfortunately have not been allowed to function in the matter of cloth. I do not say that the Dacca Committees are specimens of perfection; indeed there have been cases of corruption and jobbery in these Committees by some grabbing officials in league with some grabbing non-officials. But I believe that the matter can be improved and the committees can work satisfactorily with a little more popular supervision, inspection and external auditing, as I had the occasion to propose at the very inception of those committees.

Sir, I very strongly feel that some such rationing organisation should be introduced throughout the province. Have the Government the courage to introduce it throughout the province? If they do introduce it, public opinion and vigilance will play its part in rationing and, in all probability, corruption and jobbery in rationing will be a matter of the past. In any case, people will have no reason to complain. With these words, I commend my motion to the acceptance of the House. (Applause.)

Mr. PATIRAM ROY: মাননীয় ডেপুটী স্পীকার, স্যার, আজ এই হাউসে, বর্ত্তমান বস্ত্র সমস্যা আলোচনা করবার জন্য যে Adjournment Motion আনা হয়েছে--বাংলার প্রতিনিধি যারা, বাংলার ভাগ্যবিধাতা যারা, যাদের কার্য্যের ফলাফল বাংলার আবালবৃদ্ধবনিতাকে ভোগ করতে হয়, তাদের সামনে এইরূপ প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করার আবশ্যকতা খুব বেশী। আমার মনে হয় বাংলার কোন লোক জানবতে ইচ্ছা অস্বীকার করতে পারেন না।

আজকে বাংলার এই যে বস্ত্র-সমস্যা, যে সমস্যা বাংলার আকাশ-বাতাস মুখরিত করে তুলেছে, তারা যে কত গুরুতর তাহা সকলেই অনুভব করছেন। ১৯৪৩ সালের অন্ন-সমস্যার সঙ্গে এর তুলনা করা যায়। গত ১৫ তারিখে আমি সাতক্ষীরা হ'তে কলিকাতায় আসি। তার পূর্ব্বে সাতক্ষীরায় এবং তদঞ্চলে প্রায় দশ দিন যাবৎ কোন হাটে বা বাজারে কাপড়ের চিহ্ন পর্য্যন্ত দেখা যাচ্ছিল না। আজকে কাপড়ের দুর্ভিক্ষ এবং হাহাকার চতুর্দ্দিকে দেখা দিয়েছে। এক সময় ছিল, যখন বাজারের অধিকাংশ স্থানই কাপড়ে পরিপূর্ণ থাকত কিন্তু এখন সেই বাজারে একখানাও কাপড় নেই। একখানা পর্য্যন্ত কাপড় সেখানকার বাজারে দেখা যাচ্ছে না এর কারণ কি? যেদিন সেখানে বাজারে কাপড় দেখা গেল না সেদিন সেখানকার জনসাধারণ সকলে একেবারে চমকে উঠলো --কি ব্যাপার? কেন এমন ধারা হ'ল? যেখানে এত কাপড় আসত এবং বিক্রয় হ'ত, সেই সমস্ত কাপড় কোথায় গেল? এ সম্বন্ধে আমরা তদন্ত করে জানলাম যে কতক কতক কাপড় সেখানকার কাপড় ব্যবসায়ী যারা তাদের বাড়ীতে মজুত আছে। এবং এই সমস্ত কাপড় ব্যবসায়ীদের বাড়ীতে গেলে পর, সেখান থেকে কিছু কিছু কাপড় কিনতে পাওয়া যায়। কাপড় ব্যবসায়ীরা তাদের বাড়ীতে বসে কাপড় বিক্রয় করছে--অথচ তারা হাটে-বাজারে এসে কাপড় বিক্রয় করা একেবারে বন্ধ করে দিয়েছে। এর কারণ কি, সেটা জানবার আমার উৎসুক হয়। তাই আমি সেখানকার কোন একটি ইউনিয়নের প্রেসিডেণ্টকে এই কারণ জানবার জন্য অনুরোধ করলাম। তিনি বস্ত্র ব্যবসায়ীদের বাড়ীতে গেলেন অনুসন্ধান করতে এবং তাদের জিজ্ঞাসা করলেন যে তারা বাজারে কেন কাপড় বিক্রয় করতে যায় না। তার উত্তরে তারা বলে যে control দর বেঁধে দেওয়া হয়েছে কাপড় বিক্রয়ের জন্য, সেই দরে তাহারা কাপড় বিক্রয় করতে পারছে না। তাদের কাপড় বিক্রয় করতে হয় তার চেয়েও ডবল বা তিনগুণ দামে। বাজারে গিয়ে এই ডবল বা তিনগুণ দামে কাপড় বিক্রয় করতে গেলে ধরা পড়বার ভয় আছে; সেইজন্য তারা লুকিয়ে বাড়ীতে কাপড় বিক্রয় করে। তাদের বলা হ'ল "তোমরা যদি এই রকম ভাবে বাড়ীতে কাপড় বিক্রয় করো, তাহলে পুলিশে জানান হবে।' তার উত্তরে তারা বললে "আমরা কি করব মহাশয়, কলিকাতার চোরাবাজার থেকে বেশী দাম দিয়ে আমাদের কাপড় কিনতে হচ্ছে। সুতরাং এই দরে কাপড় বিক্রয় না করলে আমাদের লোকসান হয়।" বোঝা গেল চুরি শুধু তারাই করছেন না, উপর থেকে নীচে পর্য্যন্ত সকলেই সর্ব্বত্র এই রকমভাবে চোরা কারবারী চালিয়ে যাচ্ছেন। এবং ফলে হয়েছে এই যে পূর্ব্বে বাজারে যে কাপড় পাওয়া যেত তা আর পাওয়া যাচ্ছে না। ১৯৪৩ সালের দুর্ভিক্ষে পুপীড়িত হয়ে মরণের হাত থেকে যে কয়জন লোক বেঁচেছিল আজ তারা, দু'মুঠা অন্ন পাচ্ছে কিন্তু এই অন্ন থেকেও সহস্রগুণে গুরুতর এই বস্ত্র-সমস্যা তাদের সামনে দেখা দিয়েছে। মানুষ জীবনে একবারই মারা যায় এবং তার সাথে সাথে সমস্ত দুঃখ-কষ্ট ও বিপদের হাত থেকে মুক্ত হয়। কিন্তু সেই মানুষকে যদি বেঁচে থাকতে হয়, তাহলে তার সবচেয়ে প্রধান এবং প্রয়োজনীয় বিষয় হ'ল তার লজ্জা নিবারণ করা। যদি সে তা করতে সক্ষম না হয় তবে আমি বলবো সে মানুষের বেঁচে থাকার চেয়ে মৃত্যুই শ্রেয়ঃ। আজ একটু লেখাপড়া দেখতে পাওয়া যায় অনেক বাড়ীতে যুবতী নারীরা বস্ত্রাভাবে ঘরের বাইরে হতে পারছে না। অনেকে লজ্জা নিবারণ না করতে পেরে আত্মহত্যা করছে। দেশে ভয়ঙ্কর অবস্থা উপস্থিত হয়েছে--টাকা দিয়েও কাপড় বাজারে কিনতে পাওয়া যাচ্ছে না; এবং এর জন্য কি গভর্ণমেণ্ট দায়ী নন? কণ্ট্রোল দরে কাপড় বিক্রয়ের ব্যবস্থা করা হ'ল কিন্তু কাপড় ঠিকমত সরবরাহ বা যোগান করা হ'ল না তার ফল এই হয়েছে যে, যারা ঘুষ দিতে পারে, যারা চোরাবাজারকে সবল করতে পারে তারাই খানিকটা কাপড় কিনতে সক্ষম হয়। বাংলার আজ শত শত লোক বস্ত্রাভাবে প্রায় উলঙ্গ অবস্থায় দিন কাটাইতেছে।

বাংলা সরকারের অব্যবস্থার ফলে ১৯৪৩ সালে প্রায় ৪০ লক্ষ লোক অনাহারে মারা গিয়েছে আবার এ বছর বোধহয় লজ্জা নিবারণের জন্য বহু সহস্র লোক মারা যাবে। এই সমস্যার সমাধান করার উপায় কি? এই

সমস্যা সমাধানের বোধ হয় বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের হাতে কোন উপায় নেই। বা তাঁরা ইচ্ছা করেই সমাধান করতে চান না। তাঁরা বোধহয় ভাবছেন এই সমস্যা দূর করার একটা খুব সহজ উপায় আছে। সেটা হচ্ছে এই "আমাদের যখন, আজ আলো জ্বালিবার কেরোসীন নেই, কলিকাতা শহরে বাতি নেই, তখন এই অন্ধকারের মধ্যে একটা কাজ করলে ভাল হয়। অর্থাৎ বাংলার সকল ব্যক্তি ধনী থেকে দরিদ্র, জমিদার হইতে প্রজা এবং মন্ত্রী থেকে চৌকিদার সবাই উলঙ্গ হয়ে পড়ি, তাহলেই বস্ত্র-সমস্যা সমাধান হয়ে যাবে।" এই বিদ্যা দূর করতে হ'লে আবার আমাদের সেই আদিম যুগে ফিরে যেতে হবে, যে যুগে কাপড়ের ব্যবহার ছিল না। ভারতের বাংলায় এই অসভ্য আদিম যুগ আনিবার ব্যবস্থা মন্ত্রী মহোদয় করিয়াছেন।

কাপড়ের কণ্ট্রোল করিতে গিয়া, দোকানগুলিতে যথোচিত কাপড় না দেওয়াতে এবং কণ্ট্রোলের দোকানগুলির সুপরিচালনার অভাবে আজ বাংলার ব্যবসায়ী ক্ষেত্রে নৈতিক অবনতি ঘটেছে যা পূর্বে কখনও দেখা যায়নি। পাঁচ টাকার কাপড় দশ টাকায় বিক্রী হচ্ছে। চোরা কারবারী পুরাদমে চলেছে। চোরাবাজারের অফিসারগণ, ব্যবসায়ীগণ বাংলা দেশকে তার নীতি থেকে বহু দূরে নিয়ে যাচ্ছে। বাংলার নৈতিক চরিত্রের এত অবনতি ঘটিয়াছে যার ফল একদিন ভবিষ্যৎ বাংলাকে ভোগ করতে হবে।

বস্ত্র ও সূতা কণ্ট্রোল করাতে, দেশে নানা রকম সমস্যা এসে দেখা দিয়েছে। এদেশের জোলা এবং তাঁতী অনেক সময় নিজেদের কাপড় বুনে লজ্জা নিবারণ করে। শুধু তাই নয়, সে কাপড় অন্য অনেক লোকও পাইয়া থাকে। অন্ততঃ কৃষক মহলে দেখা যায় তাদের যে দু-চারখানা গামছার আবশ্যক হয় তা জোলারাই বুনে দেয়। কিন্তু আজ অবস্থা এমন হয়েছে যে কাপড় ত পাওয়া যাচ্ছেই না, সঙ্গে সঙ্গে সূতাও দুষ্প্রাপ্য হয়েছে। সূতা আজ বাজারে নাই--ফলে হয়েছে কাপড় ত গেলই আবার গামছাও যেতে বসেছে। যারা গামছা ও কাপড় বুনে জীবিকা অর্জন করত, আজ তারা অন্নাভাবে হাজারে হাজারে মরতে বসেছে। গত দুর্ভিক্ষে বাংলা দেশে যখন লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক মারা যায় তখন সেটা খবরের কাগজের মারফতে পাবলিসিটি দেওয়া হয়েছিল, আর এখন সূতার অভাবে, যারা বয়ন করে জীবিকা নির্বাহ করে তারা যে কত সংখ্যায় মারা যাচ্ছে তার কোন পাবলিসিটি নেই। আমি মনে করি এটা করা বিশেষ দরকার।

এই সূতার অভাবে আর একটি সম্প্রদায় আছে, যাকে খুব বেশী ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত করেছে, সে হচ্ছে মৎস্যজীবি। তাদের কি অবস্থা হয়েছে একবার দেখুন। মৎস্য ধরিবার জন্য জালের প্রয়োজন এবং জালের জন্য সূতার দরকার। আজকে জালের অভাবে মৎস্য ধরিতে পারিতেছে না। তারা সাধারণতঃ খাল, বিলে গিয়া মাছ ধরিয়া থাকে। কিন্তু আজ তাদের এই জালের অভাবে মাছ ধরা বন্ধ হয়ে গিয়েছে। এবং এর ফলে অনাহারে তারা মারা যাচ্ছে। পল্লীগ্রামে এই সমস্ত সম্প্রদায়ের লোক মারা গেলে, সাধারণতঃ চৌকিদার খবর দিয়ে দেয় যে তারা ম্যালেরিয়ায় ভুগে মারা গিয়েছে, কিন্তু ভাল ভাবে খবর নিলে দেখা যাবে যে সেখানে তারা খাদ্যের অভাবে হাজারে-হাজারে মারা যাচ্ছে। সুতরাং দেখা যাচ্ছে আজকে সূতা কণ্ট্রোল করার ফল হয়েছে--বাংলার হাজার-হাজার লোকের অন্নাভাব এবং বাঙালীর বিশেষ খাদ্য মৎস্যের অভাব ও অকাল মৃত্যুর সংখ্যা বৃদ্ধি।

Mr. I. D. JALAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the problem of cloth control which is engaging the attention of this House today is a very complex problem. It has baffled the Control authorities both Central and Provincial and in spite of the control operating for one year and a half we have come to this situation that Bengal is now faced with a famine. There is no use blaming one party or the other because the problem is too important to be lightly dealt with but it is time that we should not shut our eyes to the realities of the situation and try to remedy the defects which are existing at present. We must know what the cloth position is before we are in a position to understand its implications and difficulties. So far as Bengal is concerned, the province has not been properly dealt with by the Central Textile Board as is quite apparent from the fact that whereas other provinces have been allowed 12 yards and 16 yards, Bengal has been allowed only 10 yards per head. The hand of our Government should be strengthened to press their utmost demand to the central authorities to do justice to Bengal by allotting the same quota as has been given to other provinces. There is no earthly reason why Bengal should be treated in such a discriminatory fashion. The second cause of shortage has been that the Central Textile Board issued an order in December last freezing all goods which would normally have come to Bengal. What had happened was that if the Bengal quota-holders—their number was sufficiently large had received the goods which were duly theirs according

to the quota system, Bengal would not have faced the crisis in *dhuties* and *sarees* which has now come in this province. I can go a little into detail in order to show to this House that great injustice has been done by the Central Textile Board in dealing with the problems affecting Bengal. The Bengal dealers were being supplied with *dhuties* and *sarees* of the Indian Manufacturing Companies—the Kaisar-I-Hind Mill, the Crown Mill, the Western India Mills and the Hindusthan Mills. The Indian Manufacturing Companies and the Kaisar-I-Hind Mills used to give to Bengal the famous *dhuties* and *sarees* and they used to give 250 bales per month. Similarly, the Crown, the Western and the Hindusthan Mills used to give about 1,000 bales per month to Bengal in *dhuties* and *sarees*. Had the Central Textile Board not frozen the quantity which had been delivered to the quota-holders of Bengal the position would have been much easier than what the position is to-day. (MR. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: What about the freezing by the Government of Bengal?) I am coming to that. Now the position so far as Bengal is concerned—I have heard it from reliable sources—is that the Central Textile Board is judging the Bengal Government with a prejudiced eye. I have heard from reliable sources that the highest authorities controlling the Textile Board say that so far as Bengal was concerned it was a Timbaktu or a dark land. Mr. Vellodi came to Bihar and supplied her with 2,000 bales of *dhuties*. I cannot understand any reason why Mr. Vellodi did not come to Bengal when Bengal is faced with a cloth famine. Similar was the treatment meted out to this province when she was faced with a food crisis. Therefore, so far as Bengal is concerned I have no hesitation in saying that the Central Textile Board has not dealt with the problems of Bengal as sympathetically as it should have done. I cannot however acquit the Government of Bengal because they have failed to appreciate the intricacies of the trade and specially of the cloth trade and I must say, without meaning the slightest disrespect to the officials who are charged with the administration of this delicate subject that they are absolutely ignorant of the intricacies of this trade which has got 45,000 varieties of cloth and which has got thousands of problems. I will not go into personalities because personalities are too well-known to us. People who had no connection whatsoever with the textile business have been put into the highest offices to be led or misled by interested parties into passing orders which are withdrawn at the next moment.

The question of distribution in Bengal is within the sphere of the Government of Bengal. May I ask the Government of Bengal as to whether it has performed the duty which it was theirs to perform apart from the duties of the Central Textile Board. May I ask the Hon'ble Minister, Civil Supplies, whether it is not a fact that thousands of bales out of the goods which were frozen in September and October last are still lying undelivered when Bengal is faced with a crisis and cloth is wanting in different places, and thousands of bales of cotton and yarn are lying frozen without permits being issued for their delivery. If the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Supplies wants instances I am prepared to give instances but there is this difficulty that those merchants who say these things are in a very difficult position.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, no.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: You are holding up their money for nearly 6 months.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Let them say so.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Their money is locked up for 6 months.

Mr. I. D. JALAN: What I say is this, that the Textile Commissioner has been given the powers that the Czar of Russia could not have got. Without assigning any reason, without hearing you, without giving any chance to you, your licence can be cancelled any moment, but there is no appeal, nobody can be heard. How can any merchant take the risk of going against the department? I am saying in all earnestness to the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Supplies not to be prejudiced by whatever we say; let him make enquiries. He will find to his satisfaction—and I am positive—that there are thousands of bales which are lying frozen since September and October and are rotting, and the people are incurring interest and godown rent and what not. Letters after letters have been and are being written for permission to deliver the goods to somebody but no heed is being paid.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: That is not correct.

Mr. I. D. JALAN: My friend is disputing my proposition. I will give one instance—I do not know whether that party will be penalised or not. I tell you this that one person has got 80 bales which were frozen in September last but those bales are still lying undelivered. Now, there are lots of instances in October—I know them to be facts; and letters after letters are being written to the Textile Controller's office but no reply is given to them.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Can you give me particulars?

Mr. I. D. JALAN: My friend wants particulars as if he is quite unaware of the facts. But I am citing facts.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: There are 1,403 bales frozen.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Nonsense! You are giving a false information. Your officers always give you this kind of hallucinations.

Mr. I. D. JALAN: We know there are lots of goods which were frozen in September and October and which have not yet been given delivery of. Will the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Supplies deny it? I wait for an answer.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: You will get the answer.

Mr. I. D. JALAN: Do you deny the facts that goods which were frozen in September and October are still lying with the dealers without the permits being issued and in spite of letters being written by them? We undertake to prove this fact that at least these goods are lying undelivered.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, that is not so.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Yes, that is so. May I ask how many thousands of pieces of standard cloth with the Bengal Mills are lying undelivered?

Mr. I. D. JALAN: Bengal is in the grip of cloth famine, and thousands and thousands of bales of cloth are lying undelivered, and the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Civil Supplies denies that fact. I cannot understand the reason for that.

Now, Sir, so far as requisitioned goods are concerned, normally it takes at least about a month and a half or two before the order is made for the delivery of those goods.

Now, there are numerous other things which can be said, but the time at my disposal is too short, and I do entreat the Hon'ble Minister for

Civil Supplies that apart from all the charges of nepotism, favouritism and all that which are being levelled against the department, please, for God's sake, take steps to release every bale of cloth that is lying frozen today.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: But dont give it to Marwaris.

Mr. I. D. JALAN: My friend has brought in the question of Marwaris. I say, my friends of the Muslim League are the greatest rogues in this country: they are the persons who are doing this mischief under the protection of the Hon'ble Minister.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: You, Marwaris, are responsible for it.

(At this stage there was loud noise from both sides of the House.)

Mr. I. D. JALAN: There is no use shouting. Everbody knows that this is the root cause. The Muslim League wants to solidify its position by extending patronage to its own people. I have got a letter with me which the Subdivisional Officer of a place wrote to the Textile Controller. It runs thus: "I have the honour to state that no Muslim dealer is available to take delivery of the consignment from Calcutta to this subdivision. ....."

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot read out that letter.

RAI HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Why?

Mr. I. D. JALAN: He appointed two persons—Messrs. such and such, and licences Nos. such and such.

(At this stage the red light was lit.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your time is up.

Mr. I. D. JALAN: I have got nothing more to say, but, for God's sake, don't bring in communalism.

Mr. MAQBUL HOSAIN: মাননীয় সহকারী সভাপতি সাহেব, অত্র প্রদেশে বস্ত্রের যে উৎকট অভাব দেখা দিয়াছে তৎসম্বন্ধে সমালোচনার জন্য এই পরিষদে যে মুলতুবী প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করা হয়েছে তাহার সমর্থনে আমি কিছু বলতে চাই। বাংলার এক প্রান্ত হইতে অপর প্রান্ত পর্য্যন্ত কাপড়ের দুর্ভিক্ষ দেখা দিয়াছে। লজ্জা নিবারণের জন্য মানুষ কাপড় পাইতেছে না। রাতারাতি কাপড় বাংলার হাট বাজার হইতে উধাও হইয়াছে। সৃষ্টির প্রথম হইতে দুনিয়ার কোথাও এমন অবস্থার উদ্ভব আর কখনও হয় নাই। দেশের যে এমন অবস্থা হইয়াছে তাহার জন্য দায়ী বাংলার বর্ত্তমান এক দলীয় মন্ত্রিসভা। যে মন্ত্রিসভার আমলে বাংলার ৫০ লক্ষ লোক, হাটে, ঘাটে, মাঠে শিয়াল কুকুরের মত, অকালে এক মুষ্টি খাদ্যের অভাবে প্রাণ হারাইল, যাদের মন্ত্রিত্বকালে লবণ বাজারে দুষ্প্রাপ্য হইয়াছে, ঔষধ ও চিনির উৎকট অভাব দেখা দিয়াছে, কেরোসিন, কয়লা প্রভৃতি নিত্য ব্যবহার্য্য দ্রব্য দুষ্প্রাপ্য হইয়াছে, যাদের শাসনকালে দস্যুগিরি, চুরি, অবিচার ও দুর্নীতিতে বাংলার নৈতিক চরিত্র কলুষিত হইয়াছে, তাদের সম্বন্ধে কথা বলতে সত্যই ঘৃণার উদ্রেক হয়।

বাংলার বস্ত্র সমস্যা সমাধানের জন্য কেন্দ্রীয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টকে ইং ১৯৪৩-৪৪ সনে ৩ কোটি ৪৮ লক্ষ ৪৭ হাজার টাকা, ইং ১৯৪৪-৪৫ সনে ৫ কোটি ৭২ লক্ষ ৯৬ হাজার টাকা এবং ১৯৪৫-৪৬ সনের জন্য ৪ কোটি ৩৭ লক্ষ ৫০ হাজার টাকা, অর্থাৎ তিন বৎসরে মোট ১৩ কোটি ৫৯ লক্ষ ৩৩ হাজার টাকা প্রদান করিয়াছেন। বাংলার মন্ত্রিসভা হরত কতক টাকা নিজেরা আত্মসাৎ করিয়া বাকী টাকায় কাপড় কিনিয়া তাদের দলীয় লোকগণের হাতে বিক্রয়ের জন্য দিয়াছেন? মুসলিম লীগের প্রত্যেকটি লোক ঘুষখোর, দুর্নীতি-পরায়ণ ও চোরাবাজারের বেপারী। তাহারা প্রত্যেক নিয়ন্ত্রিত জিনিষের পারমিট গ্রহণ করিয়া প্রত্যেক স্থানে চোরাই কারবার সৃষ্টি করিয়াছেন। তাদের হাতে যখন কাপড় বিক্রয়ের ভার দেওয়া হইয়াছে তখন জনসাধারণ কাপড় পাইবে কেমন করিয়া?

ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্রত্যেক লোকের জন্য কাপড়ের একটি কোটা নির্দ্ধারণ করিয়াছেন। বাংলার লোকে বৎসরে মাথাপিছু দশ গজ করিয়া কাপড় পড়িয়াছে; আর পাঞ্জাবের জন্য মাথা পিছু পড়িয়াছে আঠারো গজ করিয়া।

এইভাবে অন্যান্য প্রদেশেও বাংলা অপেক্ষা অধিক কাপড় পাইয়াছে। পাঞ্জাবের লীগ বিরোধী বিজির হারাৎ মন্ত্রিসভাকে লীগপন্থীগণ মুসলিম স্বার্থ বিরোধী মন্ত্রিসভা বলিয়া অভিহিত করিয়া থাকেন। কিন্তু বাংলার তথাকথিত, মুসলিম স্বার্থ সংরক্ষণকারী মন্ত্রিসভার আমলে মৃতের কাফনের (সৎকারের) কাপড় দেওয়া যাইতেছে না। শরীরের প্রত্যেকটি অঙ্গ যে কাপড় দ্বারা আবৃত করা মুসলমানের পক্ষে ফরজ, অর্থাৎ compulsory বা অবশ্য কর্ত্তব্য তাহা প্রতিপালিত হইতেছে না। এইভাবে মুসলীম লীগ মন্ত্রিসভার দ্বারা বাংলার মুসলমানের ধর্ম্মের কাজে ব্যাঘাৎ ঘটিতেছে। মুসলিম লীগের মন্ত্রী ও সদস্যগণ হাফপ্যাণ্ট পরিয়া, অর্দ্ধ নগ্ন অবস্থায় ফিরিঙ্গি সাজিয়া থাকেন। সুতরাং কিভাবে ফরজ রক্ষা করিতে হয় তাহা তাঁহারা জানিবেন কেমন করিয়া?

বাংলার বরাদ্দ কাপড় হইতে চীন, ইরাণ প্রভৃতি দেশে প্রচুর পরিমাণে কাপড় চালান দেওয়ার ব্যবস্থা হইয়াছে। বাংলাদেশে কি কাপড়ের এমন প্রাচুর্য্য ঘটিয়াছে যে বাংলায় আর কাপড় রাখার স্থান পাওয়া যাইতেছে না, বাংলার রাস্তা ঘাট, হাট বাজার কাপড়ে ভর্ত্তি হইয়া গিয়াছে? বাংলার মন্ত্রীসভাকে সাবধান করিয়া দিতে চাই তাঁহারা যেন এইরূপ কার্য্য হইতে ক্ষান্ত হ'ন, তা না হইলে দেশবাসী ইহার প্রতিশোধ লইবে।

বস্ত্র সমস্যা সমাধান করিতে হইলে সুতার সরবরাহ হওয়াও একান্ত প্রয়োজন। সুতা সরবরাহের সুরাহা না হইলে বস্ত্র সমস্যার সমাধান হইতে পারে না। মাদ্রাজের তাঁতীরা পূর্ব্বে যে সুতা পাইত বর্ত্তমানে তাহা অপেক্ষা অনেক বেশী সুতা পাইতেছে। ফলে মাদ্রাজে কাপড়ের কোন অভাব পরিলক্ষিত হইতেছে না। অন্যান্য প্রদেশের অবস্থাও তদ্রূপ। বস্ত্র ও সুতা ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্টের টেক্সটাইল ডিরেক্টর দ্বারা বণ্টিত হইতেছে। প্রত্যেক প্রদেশ তাদের নিজ নিজ বস্ত্র ও সুতা প্রয়োজন অনুযায়ী আদায় করিয়া লইতেছে। কিন্তু বাংলার লীগ দলীয় মন্ত্রিসভা যুদ্ধের পূর্ব্ববর্ত্তী সময়ের সিকি পরিমাণ সুতাও আদায় করিতে পারিতেছেন না। ইহাতে অবস্থা এমন হইয়াছে যে বাংলার লক্ষ লক্ষ নরনারী উলঙ্গ হওয়ার উপক্রম হইয়াছে। বাংলা দেশে ৬০ লক্ষ তাঁতী আছে। তারা যদি রীতিমত সুতা পাইত তাহা হইলে বাংলা দেশে এমন দারুণ বস্ত্রের দুর্ভিক্ষ দেখা দিত না।

তাঁতীদের জীবিকা অর্জ্জনের প্রধান অবলম্বন হইয়াছে তাঁত। তাঁত দ্বারা কাপড় বুনিয়া তাহারা জীবিকা নির্ব্বাহ করিয়া থাকে। সুতরাং যদি শীঘ্র প্রচুর পরিমাণে সুতা সরবরাহের ব্যবস্থা না হয় তাহা হইলে বাংলার এই ৬০ লক্ষ তাঁতী অনাহারে মারা যাইবে।

কাপড়, সুতা, লবণ, চিনি, কেরোসীন প্রভৃতি নিত্য ব্যবহার্য্য জিনিষের অভাবে ও লীগ দলীয় লোকদের ঘুষ, চুরি, প্রবঞ্চনা ও অতিরিক্ত লাভ জনিত দুষ্কর্ম্মের ফলে বাংলা দেশে গণ-বিপ্লব সৃষ্টি হওয়ার উপক্রম হইয়াছে। যে কোন মুহূর্ত্তে বিক্ষুব্ধ জনগণ বিপ্লব সৃষ্টি করিয়া দেশের শান্তি ও শৃঙ্খলা নষ্ট করিতে পারে। যে সময় বাংলার পূর্ব্ব প্রান্তে জাপানী শত্রু বাংলা দেশ আক্রমণের জন্য ওৎ পাতিয়া বসিয়া আছে, সেই সময় বাংলায় এই প্রকার অরাজকতা সৃষ্টির প্রশ্রয় দেওয়া সমীচিন নহে। জাপানের সঙ্গে যুদ্ধে জয়লাভ করিতে হইলে বাংলা দেশে শান্তি ও শৃঙ্খলা বজায় রাখা বৃটিশ গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে একান্ত কর্ত্তব্য। তাই পরিষদের ইউরোপীয় দলের নেতা, বাংলার গভর্ণর, ফিল্ড মার্শাল লর্ড ওয়াভেল ও বৃটিশ রাজনীতিকগণের নিকট অনুরোধ যে তাঁরা বাংলার এই এক দলীয় মন্ত্রিসভা ভাঙ্গিয়া দিয়া সর্ব্বদলীয় মন্ত্রিসভা গঠন করুন। তাহা হইলে বাংলায় শান্তি ও শৃঙ্খলা বজায় থাকিবে ও যুদ্ধ জয়ের সহায়তা হইবে।

বাংলার যে বস্ত্র সঙ্কট দেখা দিয়াছে তাহার মূলে রহিয়াছে বণ্টনের অব্যবস্থা। সমাজের ধনী, প্রতিপত্তিশালী লোকেরা অধিক কাপড় পাইতেছে, আর দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের ভাগ্যে কিছুই জুটিতেছে না। বাংলার মফঃস্বলে যে ছিটেফোঁটা কাপড় যাইতেছে তার বণ্টনের ভার দেওয়া হইয়াছে সব্‌ডিভিশনেল অফিসার ও সার্কেল অফিসার-দের উপর। দূরবর্ত্তী পল্লী অঞ্চলের সাধারণ লোক এই সমস্ত জবরদস্ত হাকিমদের নিকট যাইতে সাহস পায় না। যদিও বা কেহ তাঁহাদের নিকট হইতে আবেদন নিবেদন করিয়া কাপড় পাওয়ার অনুমতি পায়, তাহা হইলেও দোকানদারেরা তাহাদিগকে কাপড় দিতেছে না। আমি নিজে প্রত্যক্ষভাবে ত্রিপুরার শ্রাদ্ধবাড়িয়ার এই অবস্থা লক্ষ্য করিয়াছি। সেখানে দেখিয়াছি আট, দশ মাইল দূরবর্ত্তী স্থান হইতে শত শত লোক আসিয়া এই সমস্ত সরকারী কর্ম্মচারীর অফিসের সম্মুখে ভীড় করিয়া ঘণ্টার পর ঘণ্টা দাঁড়াইয়া থাকিতে। তাহাদের ভিতর কতক ব্যক্তি কাপড় পাওয়ার অনুমতি পাইল, আর বাকী যাহারা অনুমতি পাইল না তাহারা হতাশ মনে বাড়ী ফিরিয়া গেল। আর যে সকল ব্যক্তি কাপড় পাওয়ার অনুমতি পাইল, তাহাদের মধ্য হইতেও অনেকে দোকানদারের নিকট হইতে কাপড় পাইল না। এই যে অবস্থা--ইহা দূর করার জন্য চাই নিরপেক্ষ লোক দ্বারা প্রতি ইউনিয়নে কাপড় বিক্রয়ের কেন্দ্র স্থাপন করা এবং প্রত্যেকে যাতে কাপড় পায় তাহার ব্যবস্থা করা।

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, speaker after speaker has invited the attention of this House——(At this stage the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy was found to be absent from the Chamber.)

ir, I regret it will not be possible to continue the debate in the absence f the Minister for Civil Supplies.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How can I help you, Dr. Sanyal? His 'arliamentary Secretary might be there.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No one is present. We refuse to be reated in this manner on an important issue of this character. The uestion be now put.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: Sir, none has spoken on our side and Khan ahadur Jasimuddin Ahmed wants to speak. Let him speak.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The arrangement was that after Dr. anyal Mr. Badrudduja will speak.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But the arrangement was not that he Hon'ble Minister in charge will give us a slip when important discusions will take place. The question be now put.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think the Hon'ble Minister should be iven a chance.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why, Sir, if he does not care to respect the House?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think, Dr. Sanyal, you continue your peech and after you finish I will consider that.

(The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy at this stage entered the Chamber nd took his seat.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Now that the Hon'ble Minister has een pleased to come I may continue. I would like to charge him with all he calamities that have now befallen on the head of Bengal, not merely ith regard to the man-made famine of which he was the principal factor ut more so definitely in regard to the cloth famine of the present time. With regard to the cloth famine the present Ministry could surely not take rotection under the possible action of a previous Ministry because the hole cloth control was engineered and conducted under the present egime.

Early in March, 1943, I sought to move an adjournment of the business of this House inviting attention to the state of affairs created by ertain action of the Textile Controller at that time. The House was thereafter given the opportunity to know through questions and interpellations and discussions during the last Budget how the whole textile position was mishandled by the Government. The Hon'ble Minister for Civil Supplies shows a wonderful levity over the whole situation. He thinks that his careful method of approaching questions in the manner he does will keep Bengal satisfied and will enable our mothers and sisters to get their clothings. What is the result of his callousness? Today all that has been achieved is that black-market, corruption and bribery are freely going on in almost every sphere of textile administration. The manner in which the officials of the Government have freely been trying to squeeze money from persons interested in the textile trade, the manner in which the big dealers of Burra Bazar are collecting daily huge sums of money on the pretence that this money has to be paid to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Civil Supplies (cries of "shame, "shame" from the Opposition Benches) is a scandal of the highest magnitude for which a judicial enquiry should be started.

Sir, early in March, 1943, I personally with due respect that a Minister of Government should command and one, whom I at least hold in some esteem because of his application and because of his energetic approach

to various problems did bring to Mr. Suhrawardy's notice that some lakhs of rupees were being raised when the department just managed to get certain licences of 38 big merchants withheld for the time being for certain enquiry. (THE HON'BLE Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, no.) Sir, I was satisfied then that the Hon'ble Minister in charge had nothing to do with the attempt to raise this money, but thereafter whenever such things occurred I had drawn his attention to the fact that the underlings and supporters of this Ministry and also certain classes of people who are well known to the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy, who frequent his house and who are his very great assets in course of elections, go to the market, freely collect money in the name of the Minister. But these things still go on and no serious attempt appears to be made to stop this scandal. Even in the Textile Control office you cannot get anything done without bribery. Even the Standard Cloth which is to be distributed under the aegis of Government direct cannot be got released unless a certain officer there can be paid some thing overnight at his house. Has Government got no eyes to see, no brains to understand all these? Has not the Hon'ble Minister found himself how his so-called honest Tribunal has set up in Calcutta 150 selected shops, some of which do not even claim to be cloth shops at all? Sir, shops that have been dealing with shoes, with wool or shops that were only groceries have now been selected as wonderful approved dealers of textile. When I offered to the Hon'ble Minister to come along with me in my car with my petrol and when I offered to show him about 40 shops which do not deserve to be given the slightest recognition of Government patronage he funked it. (THE HON'BLE Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: You did not give me a list.) I asked you to come along with me. I did not give a list only to be white-washed by some officials of yours. Even now I ask any honest member of the Muslim League to come with me today, tomorrow any time and I will show him the character of the shops selected by the Honble Mr. Suhrawardy's wonderful Tribunal. (THE HON'BLE Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I did not select them.) I had a talk with Mr. P. J. Griffiths, the newly appointed Director-General, Enforcement and Public Relations, and I also asked the Chief Whip of the European Party to come with me and I had within the course of an hour and an half shown them some of the absurdities that his so-called committee had done. And yet no serious attempt is made to check the evil not merely on that occasion but on previous occasions also when I had pointed out to the Hon'ble Minister, when I had given a written letter to the provincial Textile Controller pointing out to the Department how one Inspector was abusing his office and had a shop in the *benami* of his own, how he was squeezing out bales and bales of cloth from Burra Bazar for that particular shop, how he and a number of other Inspectors of the Department were daily and regularly and openly taking bribes (cries of "Shame, shame" from the Opposition benches), when day after day long reports came to the Provincial Textile Controller, he did not only take no action but he passed on that information to such offending parties only to make them more careful for the future. (Cries of "Hear, hear" and "Shame, shame" from the Opposition benches.) What a shame?

"Sir ,when it was decided in the presence of the Hon'ble Minister that just before *Id* and *Puja* seasons all available stock in Calcutta would be overnight taken possession of after a search, wonderful things happened. The very next morning, the Provincial Textile Controller said that this was not practicable at all. At the time when this matter was discussed in his presence, he never uttered such difficulties. What happened on the following day? He said that voluntarily the merchants were prepared to give 7,000 bales? What happened to those 7,000 bales or more? I want the Hon'ble Minister, if he is really sincere and honest, to go and enquire in his Department what has happened to those 7,000 or 11,000 bales or whatever came thereafter and he will be surprised to

know that all the records of that time have vanished and are not available. Sir, the Hon'ble Minister knows that I have personal knowledge of these. He requested me and two of his Parliamentary Secretaries at that time to assist in the distribution of certain emergency stock in the hands of Government. In 2 or 3 days' time, both myself and Nawabzada Nasarullah who were there discovered certain malpractices and we told him and also the Provincial Textile Controller that such malpractices, if allowed to continue, would not enable any gentleman, any efficient and honest man, to participate in this kind of work, and I asked the Hon'ble Minister in charge to relieve me. What did he do then? Did he take any measure to meet the situation? He merely said to me: "Dr. Sanyal, such things happen. Don't take it very seriously. (Laughter.) Go on helping; help the Department." Even so I tried to help the Department. All along I have been trying to put suggestions after suggestions to the Department only to be told that certain things cannot be done. Why cannot be done? Because he has chosen one non-official European over whom he has no authority. In my presence being convinced of the utter inefficiency, if not dishonesty, of that person, he rebuked him. He said "I am not going to have him any more" and who is the power that has kept him there still? We demand an explanation.

When black-marketing was shown to Mr. Vellodi, the Textile Commissioner, Bombay, when he came, he deputed one of his assistants to go and see the working of black-marketing in Burrabazar. He was convinced that black-marketing was going on. Mr. Jones, the Provincial Textile Controller, was then asked to go personally and see black-marketing. Several bales were caught in his presence, but what action was taken? Nothing happened. All big parties somehow managed to escape. And why so? Because there are certain influences at work which the Government themselves fostered and maintained.

I charge the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Civil Supplies not merely with starving the people of Bengal and making them naked, but also breaking the entire morale of the whole official and non-official agencies through which the public could expect any assistance. I do trust that his party and he would, in future, take proper note of the position in the country and behave themselves.

Sir, I do not now like to detain the House on such charges most of which I have brought to the Hon'ble Minister's notice. I will be prepared to repeat them with specific instances, if he likes, any time and any number of times, and I hope the House will be able to appoint a small committee and examine those charges. If I am, or any one of those charges, found to be at fault, I will be only too ready and prepared to openly apologize to the House and to the public outside. I have held public meetings in parks of Calcutta and in public halls and called upon Government to explain some of their conducts, but no notice has been taken so far, because they dare not take any notice of these allegations.

I know that so far as cloth famine is concerned, there are two aspects of the question—the supply position and the distribution question. I am aware that there are difficulties in the way created by the action of the Government of India and the Textile Commissioner. I know also that so far as Bengal is concerned, her requirements are not being properly looked into. I am also aware that the malpractices that are practised by the mills and big quota-holders have not been all due to the acts of the Provincial Government, but I also do know that what the Provincial Government have responsibility about namely equitable distribution at controlled prices, they have not so far discharged that responsibility properly and correctly. Sir, in the matter of equitable distribution over

the country, the primary responsibility lies with the Provincial Government. Here I must submit that not only have they failed, but they have set up a machinery which is corrupt to the bone, and which should be scrapped lock, stock and barrell.

Sir, so far as the Provincial Textile Advisory Council is concerned, people are led to believe that Government have in this a very dependable and honest group of advisers! The fact however is that they are mere puppets in the hands of the Minister himself only to be asked to do something to oblige him, and they do that. That has been done in a number of cases. When certain things have got to be done, the Minister sends for the Chairman and instructs him to do that, and when asked he gives an innocent plea saying "I have not done anything; it is the Tribunal which has done that". Now, what is that Tribunal? What nonsense is that Tribunal? A member of the Tribunal at a public place only the other day said "I do know and I feel"—and that is reported in one of the newspapers here—"all is humbug and everything is corrupt." When I asked him "why then did you participate in the Tribunal", he said "what can I do, I am quite helpless". This is the expression of opinion of one member of the Government Party, and one who is himself a member of the Tribunal. Sir, I have no time to go into the details. I have any number of suggestions to make and I do feel that the whole thing can be improved in only a week's time. The Textile Advisory Council should be scrapped. There should be a General Advisory Council at the centre composed of popular representatives to advise. I do hope that the House will take proper note and set up a more dependable Central Council and a number of Advisory Peoples' Committees throughout the country to take proper action in this connection with the equitable distribution of cloth and yarn.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, much has been said about the cloth famine. So, I would not say anything about it. I would only point out that in the statement by the Hon'ble Finance Minister it has been shown to us at page 18 that Government has set apart Rs. 3,68,32,000 for standard cloth up to 31st March, 1945. Sir, if this standard cloth worth Rs. 3,68,32,000 had been properly distributed, I think there would have been some relief to the people of Bengal.

I know the condition of standard cloths in some districts, namely, Berhampore and Malda. They are eaten by white ants, monsters and officers. These cloths were preserved in bond. Three-fourths of these have all been damaged in three months time. These very standard cloths which had been refused on the basis of fixed prices are now being taken by the public. It shows how naked the people are. They are taking the damaged standard cloths after paying the full price. In my starred question No. 71—it is mentioned today—you will find that in the months of September and October, 1944, out of 15,277 bales, Assam had the good fortune of getting 1,350 bales from this province, though Bengal is suffering from cloth starvation.

I suggest that this Assembly should be adjourned at least for a week and a cloth week should be observed by the Ministers and by the members of this House. All the members and Ministers should go round their constituencies and should devise means and ways to solve this problem immediately.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: In the midst of vilifications that certain honourable members have indulged in, it is difficult not only to keep one's temper but one feels inclined not to take that portion of the House into confidence at all but as this is a matter of vital importance to the people of the province, I think they should know what the situation actually is. I shall therefore for the benefit of its saner section tell the House how the position now stands.

It has been said that there is a cloth famine. It cannot possibly be enied that there is a cloth famine and that it is very largely due to the ict that the supplies are insufficient. Honourable members have given expression to the actual situation. The quota allotted to Bengal is unfortunately as low as 10 yards per head. Generally speaking, as honourable members should know, there is an over-all shortage in India. This is ue to the fact that a certain amount is exported. It is hoped that exorts will be reduced, if not altogether stopped. Then, a certain amount s used for defence services and specially for the military. The result is hat there is an over-all shortage which is accentuated from time to time y the fact that there is not sufficient coal to keep the mills in operation. On the basis of mill supply, it was at first agreed that every one throughout India should bear an equal burden arising out of the shortage and the entire quantity of cloth should be distributed to all the provinces on a per capita basis. On calculations, it was found that every province could get enough stock on the basis of 12 yards per head. This however was somewhat fallacious as the number of yards per bale were counted as 1,500 while actually the bales contained only 1,200 yards or 1,150 yards on an average as we have ascertained, but thereafter there was a sudden change. I do not know why the blow should always fall upon Bengal. I have protested most strongly against any such change. I pointed out that Bengal's population had increased, that the urban population had increased, that persons from other provinces had come into Bengal, that owing to the presence of the military there was much less civilian consumption, that bandages and other things were required in Bengal for the increased number of hospitals and that the famine through which Bengal had passed required at least some consideration to be shown to Bengal. But all the consideration that the Central Textile Control Board showed was that they reduced the quota of Bengal to 10 yards per head and increased the quotas of other provinces in some cases to 20 yards and in some even to 24 yards per head. We have protested against this most vehemently. The one reason why we have not ventilated it so far is that I do believe we shall get redress and that we shall get some kind of justice from the Government of India. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Not likely unless you set your own house in order.) In any event this is the position. The amount of cloth which has been assigned to Bengal is insufficient for its needs.

Now, Sir, the next position that we come to is how are the supplies assured to Bengal. Firstly, there is the question of supplies which are insufficient, and secondly there is the question of how much supplies are brought into Bengal and how we can be sure that these supplies will come into Bengal.

A certain number of quota-holders have been selected by the Textile Commissioner himslf with which we have no concern. Thereafter, there are a certain number of importers who are expected to get cloth through their normal dealers. Up till now we have not yet received a list of the quota-holders, nor how much they are entitled to get and I do believe that there are instances where quota-holders have resold their quota in Ahmedabad and Bombay and have not brought them to Bengal. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: They dare not bring them.) There is a scheme which will soon be put into operation. On the 14th or 15th February there was a meting held of the Textile Control Board and a new scheme is now being introduced by the Textile Commissioner which will commence with freezing the cloth from the beginning and then controlling it properly. We exepct that when that scheme will come into operation, we shall be in a position not only to distribute whatever cloth is allotted to us but also on a proper basis.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That has put up your price to Rs. 10 lakhs.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Now, Dr. Sanyal is making a vulgar and indecent insinuation. If he is suggesting that I have sold myself for money, I shall call him a dirty liar. That is all. I shall tell another honourable member who spoke on the first occasion and who said—I think these are his very words—that "the person who has been allowed to handle yarn shares his spoils with his patron in the Ministry" referring to some person in the Ministry or may be to myself, that I not only challenge him to prove it, but I call him also a dirty liar. (Interruption.) (Cries of "Withdraw, withdraw" from the Opposition benches.)

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: He must withdraw that expression and tender an unconditional apology. (Interruption.)

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, ——(The voice of the Hon'ble Minister was drowned in the tremendous noise from the Opposition bloc.)

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: We will not allow him to proceed further unless he withdraws.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He will take a few minutes to conclude his speech.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Are you presiding in the House when such an unparliamentary expression has been freely used?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, (again the voice was drowned in the uproar from the Opposition bloc).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you go on in this way, I will have to adjourn the House.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: The Hon'ble Minister must withdraw before we can allow him to proceed further.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Will you ask the other members, Sir, to withdraw what they have said?

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. Is it parliamentary for a well known dishonest Minister to call an honourable member of the Opposition a liar?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I call that member a dirty, filthy liar.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister who is known to be a thief entitled to call another member a dirty and filthy liar?

Mr. K. NASARULLAH: You are a thief.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: You are a swindler.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I ask you whether you are presiding or not?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is impossible to conduct the business of the House in this atmosphere and I adjourn the House for fifteen minutes.

(The House was adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, the question be now put.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I have not finished.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You cannot finish unless you withdraw.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Expressions used by both sides are undesirable and unhappy and I will see the proceedings and have them expunged.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You cannot expunge. There is no right for any Speaker or Deputy Speaker to expunge any part of the proceedings.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: No member on this side of the House used that expression.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry to say that there were provocations on both sides and I hope now in a calmer atmosphere you will allow the Hon'ble Minister to conclude the remaining portion of his speech.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Not unless he withdraws the expression "dirty and filthy liar" used by him.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,——(again the voice of the Hon'ble Minister was drowned in the uproar in the House).

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Are you encouraging the use of such unparliamentary expression in the House?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is very difficult to say whether it is unparliamentary or not and I will not cite any instance of British Parliament. I will not quote anything from the proceedings of the British Parliament. Members of the Parliament have indulged in expressions even stronger than this.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will you help us to use such expressions also?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope you will only allow a few minutes to the Hon'ble Minister to finish his speech.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir,——(Again there was a tremendous uproar from the Opposition side in which his voice was drowned.)

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: On a point of order, Sir. I am asking you this question for your consideration and answer. If charges of corruption against the Ministry are brought by members of the Opposition regarding the administration of any department, is it the way to reply to that charge to call the members who bring that charge as "dirty liars." I am asking you whether this is the kind of expression the Minister should be permitted to use in refuting the charges of corruption and bribery which can be legitimately brought against the administration.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think I have made my position clear. You have heard all the expressions that have been used. I have never suggested that the expressions are happy. I have already said that the expressions are very much undesirable and if you want me to say anything, certainly I will say that they are all unparliamentary. I must say that the responsibility lies with both sides of the House——(Cries of "No, No" from the Opposition bloc and of "Yes, Yes" from the Government bloc.) If you continue in this way I shall have to ask the leaders of the different parties to help me in this matter.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: How can we help you?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I rise on a point of order——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, when I am on my legs, no point of order can arise.

I will once more appeal to the leaders of the different parties to help me in restoring order. If you are really helpless in helping me I think I

have no other alternative but to adjourn the House. I once more appeal to the leaders, Mr. Roy, Mr. Basu, Mr. Shamsuddin Ahmed, Dr. Mookerjee, to help me.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Before you decide to adjourn the House we want to make our position perfectly clear. We never used any expression which has been declared by you unparliamentary as has been done in the case of the Hon'ble Minister. I do not therefore see what useful purpose will be served by the leaders of the Opposition going and seeing you in your chamber because we do feel that we have not committed any breach of parliamentary propriety. In the circumstances the only course open to you is to take the necessary step which follows after your declaration that the expression used by the Hon'ble Minister is unparliamentary.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: To be very frank I did not listen when the expression was used by Mr. Suhrawardy. (Cries of "Oh! Oh!" from the Opposition benches.) But when such expressions have been used by members on both sides I do hold that I should compel Mr. Suhrawardy, Mr. Sen and Mr. Sanyal and others who have used them to withdraw. I will therefore ask Mr. Suhrawardy, Mr. Sen and Mr. Sanyal to withdraw the expressions they have used.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: So far as we are concerned no compulsion is necessary.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Suhrawardy, I hope you are withdrawing the expression you have used.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am ready to withdraw any unparliamentary expression I have used if the other members withdraw theirs. I am afraid I shall not be able to withdraw it because I have used it in the face of the grave and provocative charges and insinuations made against me.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have definitely asked three members of this House to withdraw the expressions they have used and I hope Mr. Suhrawardy will withdraw the expression and Mr. Sen and Mr. Sanyal also will.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Not only have certain insinuations and charges been made against me but over and above those insinuations and charges direct personal remarks have been made and it is my duty to tell them that they are not truthful. It cannot possibly be that any member will be permitted to say that I am dishonest or that I have taken money or to make any other insinuation like that. There are members who know, if they search their hearts, that I have been working in the midst of a filthy atmosphere and I have tried to give as clean an administration as possible and it is extremely unfair for them that they should use such expressions.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope the members will withdraw the expressions.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Your first man has not yet withdrawn.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Will the honourable members be satisfied if I say this that if the insinuations made by the members of the Opposition and the charges made by them be held as false as well as the other ugly expressions used by the honourable members, I unhesitatingly withdraw the expression I have used.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I retorted justly. I withdraw as a sportsman.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Without in the least denying anything I have said in my speech, I withdraw the expression "swindler" that I used.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Dr. Sanyal, has not withdrawn.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: As explained to me by him he did not suggest that the money was being collected for me, or that I would take it.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: On a point of information Sir, মাননীয় মন্ত্রি মহোদয়কে আমি জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই যে তাঁর নিজের এবং তাঁর দলের সমস্ত মন্ত্রীদের কত টাকা bank balance যুদ্ধের আগে ছিলো এবং এখন কত আছে—এটা তিনি জানাবেন কি? (Laughter.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not allow that question.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Now, Sir, under the new scheme of the Government of India, there will be only three categories of dealers—one will be quota-holders, the second importers and the third retailers. Now, perhaps—it is not perhaps, it is almost certain—we shall be in a position to regulate the distribution of cloth much better than before.

I would like to say something about yarn; I do not know if I shall have the time to do so. Yarn allotted to Bengal is very inadequate and I have protested very strongly and I do feel that if that inadequacy continues, Bengal will be in for a very, very bad time indeed. I think the position that is taken up by the Government of India and the Central Advisory Committee regarding distribution of yarn to Bengal is indefensible. I shall place this matter before the public at a press conference so that the public may know exactly how the situation stands.

Now, Sir, I also intend as far as possible to explore all possibilities of rationing cloth. I do not know whether we shall be able to succeed and how long it will take to do so. What I have in my mind at present is that we shall be able to give 5 yards of cloth to an infant or to a boy up to the age of 8 or 12 and 10 yards of cloth to an adult. Now, that means to say that only a pair of *saris* or a pair of *dhutis* will be given. As anybody can see, this is hopelessly inadequate, but as there does not seem to be any other alternative, we shall have to do the best with the supply we have got.

As regards yarn, we are sending it to all the places where there are weavers. It is an error to consider that the gentleman whom we have selected is the sole distributor of yarn. He is not the distributor but he is merely a handling agent in the sense that he removes the yarn from here. Nobody who knows anything about transport can deny that he has discharged his duties efficiently in the distribution of yarn, and nobody who knows anything of the problem can deny that it was necessary for me to find somebody who would be in a position to extract the yarn from the yarn holders, pay them money in advance, transport the goods to any defined part of Bengal, and wait to recover his money from the handling agents set up by the Subdivisional Officers.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Why do you allow yarn to be exported from this province?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, Sir.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: It has been exported to Bihar.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Under your protection, it has been exported from the Dhakeswari Cotton Mills.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Now that I have been reminded of export, I wish to state this. You have stated that cloth is being exported to Tibet—that has appeared in the papers. This is incorrect. Six hundred bales have been allotted by the Central Government for Tibet and it is this cloth that will go to Tibet and no more. Similarly, the cloth that is being exported to Assam was the cloth for Assam that had been sent to Bengal and we had to send that cloth outside which was meant for the other province.

Now, Sir, we have tried our level best to utilise the trade as far as possible. As a matter of fact, we have, in distributing the frozen cloth, utilized mostly non-officials connected with the trade and have utilised existing shops to distribute the cloth. Then we went on to the quota to quota scheme. The quota to quota scheme was adopted at the instance of the trade as they wanted free liberty to distribute the cloth in their own manner.

Now, Sir, at the present moment it is only a very, very small portion of the cloth which Government has frozen. Do you think that we have frozen all the cloth and we are not distributing it? This is incorrect—only a very small portion has been frozen and the rest has been left to the trade to distribute in accordance with the quota to quota scheme. They have signally failed to do so and at the present moment it appears to me that there is no other alternative but for the Government to take over the entire control of cloth and its distribution. I hope, Sir, that the new scheme that we propose to take up will be successful, namely, that of assuring that the cloth supplies that are brought into Bengal are distributed properly. We must secure an adequate supply of cloth for Bengal then distribute it to the various subdivisions and various centres of distribution on a population basis and then further distribute ration the cloth to the consumers under Government supervision. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On political patronage!) No. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is your instruction to the Subdivisional Officers. I have seen a letter.) No. If I ask that Muslims should get a fair share, this is not a question of political patronage. We all know that Muslims as a whole are being driven out from everywhere. There are Muslim dealers. Take the case of 22 importers who have been recently selected. Is there not more than one Muslim who can import? There are any number of Muslims. The Muslim Chamber of Commerce has protested to me. Surely the rights of the Muslims have got to be protected too. It is only fair that justice should be done to all communities of the province, whether they are Muslims or whether they are Hindus. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What about Hall & Anderson? Do they import anything?) No. They are the biggest distributors of cloth and yarn. Not that I am aware of at any rate regarding cloth from Indian Mills; but they are very big retail dealers and specialise in the needs of a particular community.

The motion of Mr. Atul Chandra Sen that the business of the Assembly do now stand adjourned to discuss a matter of definite and urgent public importance and of recent occurrence, namely, the failure of the Government to prevent the acute and unprecedented cloth famine that has overtaken the province at this moment, was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—65.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia
Abdul Hakeem, Mr. (Khulna)
Abdul Latif Biswas, Maulvi
Abdul Wahed Bakshnagari, Maulvi
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi
Azimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Badi Ahmed Chowdhury, Khan Bahadur Haji
Badruddoja, Mr. Syed
Banerjee, Mr. Promatha Nath
Banerji, Mr. P.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar
Chakraborty, Mr. Jalindra Nath
[illegible], Mr. Haripada
Chandhuri, Rai Harendra Nath
Das, Babu Radhanath
Das, Rai Sahib Hemchan
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.
Das Gupta, Srijut Harendra Nath
Dolui, Mr. Harendra Nath
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira
Ekbar, Mr. Upendranath
Fazlul Haq, Mr. A. K.
Ghosh, Mr. Atul Krishna
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Griffiths, Mr. G.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra
Hashem Ali Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi
Jalan, Mr. I. B.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall
Kunjar, Mr. Atul Chandra
Kundu, Mr. Hemanta Nath
Lahiri, Babu Ashutosh
Maji, Mr. Adwaita Kumar
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra
Mandal, Mr. Sirat Chandra

Maqbul Hossain, Mr.
Mookerjee, Dr. Syamaprasad
Muhammad Afzal, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed
Mukherjee, Mr. B.
Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra
Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh
Nankar, Mr. Hem Chandra
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Sharu Chandra
Roy, Mr. Kamakrishna
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath
Roy, Mr. Patiram
Sanaullah, Dr.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra
Sen, Mr. Bhirendra Nath
Sen-Gupta, Mrs. Nellie
Shahedali, Mr.
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Singha, Maharaja Bhupendra Chandra, of Susang
Sinha, Srijut Maniendra Bhusan
Sur, Mr. Narendra Kumar
Thakur, Mr. Pramatha Ranjan
Tolai Ahmed Chowdhury, Maulvi Haji
Waller Rahman, Maulvi

NOES—104.

Abdul Aziz, Maulana Md.
Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi (Mymensingh)
Abdul Halim Ghuznavi, Khan Sahib Maulvi Md.
Abdul Jabbar, Maulvi
Abdul Kader, Mr. (alias Lal Miah)
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Matalib Malik, Dr.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Kaha Bahadur
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Rashid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rasheed, Maulvi Md.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Maulvi S. (Howrah)
Abidur Reza Chowdhuri, Khan Bahadur Maulvi
Abul Fazl, Mr. Md.
Abul Hashim, Maulvi
Abul Hossain Ahmed, Mr.
Abul Masud, Kazi
Abul Quasem, Maulvi
Ahmed Ali Mridha, Maulvi
Ahmed Hossain, Mr.
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed
Akhtaruddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi
Amir Ali Mia, Maulvi Md.
Asiad Hossain Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi
Barma, the Hon'ble Mr. Promhari
Bell-Hart, Miss P. B.
Biswas, Babu Lakshmi Narayan
Biswas, Mr. Ranik Lal
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Clark, Mr. I. A.
Das, Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra
Farhat Banu Khanam, Begum
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca)
Fazlur Rahman, Khan Bahadur (Mymensingh)
Ferguson, Mr. F. F. M.
Gladding, Mr. D., C.I.E.
Gomes, Mr. E. A.
Goswami, the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhuri, Alhadj
Hafizuddin Choudhuri, Maulvi
Hamiduddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib
Hamilton, Mr. K. A.
Hasan Sahib Maulvi Md.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M.B.E.
Hatemali Jamadar, Khan Sahib Maulvi
Haywood, Mr. Rogers
Hirtzel, Mr. H. A. F., C. B. E.
Hodge, Mr. H. Rowan
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi
Ispahani, Mr. M. A. H., M.B.E.
Jalaluddin Ahmed, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi
Jasimuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi
Kabiruddin Khan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi
Kennedy, Mr. I. G.
Leiek, Mr. John
Meinstosh, Mr. George, O.B.E.
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib Maulvi (Tippera)
Mandal, Mr. Banku Behari
Mandal, Rai Sahib Jagat Chandra
Mandal, Mr. Krishna Prasad
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi
Metheld, Mr. J. H.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur
Mohsin Ali, Mr. Md.
Morgan, Mr. G., C.I.E.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi
Muhammad Siddique, Khan Bahadur Dr. Syed
Mukerjee, the Hon'ble Mr. Tarakanth, M.B.E.
Mullick, Mr. Mukunda Behary
Mullick, the Hon'ble Mr. Pulin Behary
Musharruff Hossain, the Hon'ble Nawab, Khan Bahadur
Mustagwasi Haque, Mr. Syed
Nasarullah, Nawabzada K.
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.
Nooruddin, Mr. K.
Norton, Mr. H. R., M.B.E.
Pain, the Hon'ble Mr. Baroda Prosanna
Rajibuddin Tarafdar, Maulvi
Razaur Rahman Khan, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Dhananjoy
Sadaruddin Ahmed, Mr.
Safiruddin Ahmed, Haji
Sarkar, Babu Madhusudan
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja, O.B.E.
Sirdar, Babu Litta Munda
Smart, Mr. J. N.
Smyth-Osbourne, Mr. D. G.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Stevenson, Mr. R. A. H.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Thorman, Mr. G. M.
Walker, Mr. J. R.
Whitehead, Mr. R. B.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C., C.I.E.
Zaber Ahmed Choudhury, Maulvi
Zaman, Mr. A. M. A.
Zillur Rahman Shah Choudhury, Maulvi

The Ayes being 65 and the Noes 104, the motion was lost.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-30 p.m. till 4-45 p.m. on Friday, the 23rd February, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 23rd February, 1945, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 10 Hon'ble Ministers and 180 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Stealing of wheels and tyres of motor vehicles in Calcutta.

*46. **Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware of the fact that gangs of thieves are stealing the wheels and tyres of motor vehicles in Calcutta, after removing the car from the garages?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of such thefts in Calcutta, during the period from June, 1944, to October, 1944;

(*ii*) how many cases have been detected;

(*iii*) in how many cases the stolen property has been recovered;

(*iv*) whether the Government has given necessary permits to those owners for the purchase of tyres and the use of their cars; and

(*v*) whether it is a fact that the owners whose tyres and wheels had been stolen have been undergoing hardship to secure permits from the Government to purchase tyres?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of issuing immediate permits for tyres and wheels for such cases?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) No, only in 7 out of 43 reported cases, thefts were committed after removing the cars from their garages.

(*b*)(*i*) Forty-three.

(*ii*) Five.

(*iii*) Three.

(*iv*) In the case of an "essential" vehicle, a permit is issued provided the application for replacement of stolen tyres is supported by a satisfactory police report regarding the theft.

(*v*) and (*c*) No.

Scarcity of quinine in Tippera district.

*47. **Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the district of Tippera there has been a recrudescence of malaria outbreak in an epidemic form in many areas in the months of September, October and November, 1944?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that quinine sulphate is not available and is not being distributed now by Government?

(*c*) Is it a fact that quinocrine or mepacrine tablets are distributed now and that distribution is mainly done by appointment of licensed dealers?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that in many unions licensed dealers have not been appointed;

(*ii*) that in those areas where licensed dealers have been appointed they do not come forward to purchase the tablets;

(*iii*) that the expenses they incur in purchasing the tablets from the subdivisional centre exceed the margin of profit;

(*iv*) that the margin of profit is only Rs.2-8 per thousand tablets;

(*v*) that large number of tablets are lying undistributed in centres; and

(*vi*) that this distribution has suffered greatly?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that these grievances were brought to the notice of the Director of Public Health by the Subdivisional Health Officer and a member, Bengal Legislative Assembly?

(*f*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, have the Government taken to remedy the grievances?

(*g*) Do the Government consider the desirability of taking immediate steps for improving the distribution of anti-malarial drugs?

(*h*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps they propose to take?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) Yes. The situation, however, began to improve from the middle of October and the improvement was steadily maintained up to the middle of November except in Chandpur subdivision only where there was a slight increase in the incidence in the week ending 25th November.

(*b*) No. Quinine sulphate is distributed free to all hospitals and dispensaries including District Board and Union Board dispensaries for both indoor and outdoor patients.

(*c*) (*r*) and (*e*) Yes.

(*d*) (*i*) Only in 25 unions vendors have not been appointed on account of difficulty in securing willing and reliable men. In the district as a whole, there are more than 600 licensed vendors.

(*ii*) Yes: some of the dealers do not come forward.

(*iii*) Yes, this is so in some cases.

(*iv*) Yes. The question of increasing the margin of profit is under examination in consultation with the Government of India.

(*vi*) Yes, sale has suffered but not free distribution.

(*f*) The matter is under consideration of Government.

(*g*) and (*h*) Arrangements are being made for augmenting the channels of supply and among others all branch post offices will now be selling mepacrine to the villagers and the services of Circle Officers and other touring officers of Government will also be now utilised for checking black-marketing and supervising distribution.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many unions in the district as a whole were provided with licensed dealers?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I have nothing to add except to refer the honourable member to my reply (*d*)(*i*) because I do not know the exact number of union boards. Only 25 unions remain without licensed vendors.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that this represents nearly 50 per cent. of the total of the union boards in the district?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No, it cannot be.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on what material he suggests that the number of 25 unions does not represent 50 per cent of the total? Can he give the total number?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I think no district can have only 50 unions as my friend suggests. At least there must be 300 unions. Now the number of licensed vendors is 600. We have not appointed one vendor to every union. In some cases two or three vendors have been appointed for each union. The number of licensed vendors is 600 in all now. So the question cannot arise that 25 unions represent 50 per cent. of the total number.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the total quantity of quinine sulphate distributed free to all hospitals and dispensaries which enables him to state that there is no scarcity in the available supply of quinine sulphate?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Distribution of quinine sulphate powder from 4th April, 1944, till the 3rd November, 1944, is 957 lbs, quinine sulphate tablets 6¼ lbs. and cinchona febrifuge 1,225 lbs.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Was that free?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Not entirely.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Your answer (*b*) says that quinine sulphate is distributed free to all hospitals and dispensaries, etc. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the amount supplied free?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answers (*d*)(*ii*) and (*iii*) where it is admitted that the margin of profit allowed is so poor that local dealers do not come forward, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what arrangements have Government made to ensure the actual distribution of quinine mepacrine tablets in the affected areas where dealers may not find it profitable to import themselves?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I would refer the honourable member to my answers (*g*) and (*h*). Arrangements have been made to make these tablets available through all branch post offices.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Has every village in the Tippera district got a post office?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if every union board has got a post office?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: It may not have but then all branch post offices may cater to the needs of the people at large at least to some extent.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government consider the desirability of multiplying the number of distributing channels in view of the limited number of post offices existing in our rural areas?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: We are in correspondence with the Government of India and asking them to make the margin of profit a bit higher and to make it more lucrative so that we may get more vendors.

Number of attacks and deaths from malaria in Jessore in 1943-44 and steps taken by Government to prevent it.

*48. **Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of people that died of malaria in the district of Jessore in 1943-44;

(*b*) how many people suffered due to malaria during the said period;

(*c*) what steps the Government took to prevent it; and

(*d*) how much quinine was distributed in the whole district during that period?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) and (*b*).

	Attacks.	Deaths.
1943 ...	95,612	34,300
1944 (up to September) ...	128,760	26,648

(*c*) Two 50-bed and two 20-bed Famine Relief Emergency Hospitals, 50 Satellite Treatment Centres and 3 Mobile Medical Units have been working in the district of Jessore.

(*d*) The quantity distributed during 1943-44 was—

Quinine sulphate—2,669 lbs.

Cinchona febrifuge—1,163 lbs.

Outbreak of malaria and kala-azar in Kishoreganj subdivision and deaths therefrom.

*49. **Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Medical Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of deaths and the number of persons attacked from malaria and kala-azar in the year 1943 in police-stations Karimganj, Kishoreganj, Tarail, Hossainpur, Pakundia, Kathiadi and Kuliarchar in the subdivision of Kishoreganj in Mymensingh; and

(*ii*) what steps, if any, Government took to stop malaria epidemic in these areas?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in some unions of Karimganj, Kishoreganj and Tarail police-stations more than 40 per cent. fell victims to these fell diseases?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*)(*i*) Figures of attacks are not available. A statement showing the attendance of malaria and kala-azar patients in the dispensaries and hospitals of several thanas of the Kishoreganj subdivision during the year 1943 and another statement showing the total number of deaths from these diseases are placed on the Library Table.

(*ii*) A statement showing the total quantity of quinine and cinchona supplied for sale and free distribution in the Kishoreganj subdivision during the years 1943-44 and 1944-45 is laid on the Library Table.

(*b*) The incidence of malaria only in Karimganj, Kishoreganj and Tarail police-stations during 1943 was fairly high but in the absence of figures of actual attacks it is not possible to say what percentage of population was affected.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell the House whether he is aware of any fact of black-marketing of quinine in Kishoreganj subdivision?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: There may be some cases of black-marketing but that is not the general complaint.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: With reference to the answer just given, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps do Government take to stop this black-marketing?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Whenever any case is brought to the notice of the officers concerned or of the Government every possible step is taken to bring that culprit to book and to stop black-marketing in all possible ways.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state in how many cases actions have been taken and what steps have been taken in those particular cases?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want notice.

Increasing toll of malaria in Bengal.

*50. **Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH SEN:** Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health Department aware—

(*a*) that incidence of malarial fever is already very high; and

(*b*) that it is taking an increasing toll of lives in the Bengal districts?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The recent figures indicate that compared with the last year the toll is higher in some of the districts and lower in the others.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the districts in which the toll of malaria is lower?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want notice.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact or not that there was an over-all increase of malaria and deaths from malaria?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Yes, in some districts it was so but not in all.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: No, no, I do not mean that. I want to know whether there was an over-all increase. I mean the total.

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Yes.

Sanitary condition of Chittagong Municipality.

*51. **Khan Bahadur FAZLUL QUADIR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he has received any representation from the Honorary Secretary, District Bar Association, Chittagong, regarding the deplorable sanitary condition of the Chittagong Municipality which was taken over by the Government for better administration; and

(*b*) if so, what action has been taken on it?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A copy of the representation has been sent to the District Magistrate, Chittagong, for disposal and the Director of Public Health has been asked for a report after inspection.

Staff and supervision of emergency hospitals.

*52. **Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government (Medical) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the competent authority for the appointment and dismissal of the staff of the emergency hospitals;

(*b*) the arrangement for the supervision of these hospitals; and

(*c*) the relation of the District Magistrates and Subdivisional Officers with these hospitals?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) The Deputy Surgeon-General, F.R.E., all inspectors of hospitals, all Civil Surgeons and Additional Civil Surgeons are competent authorities for the appointment and dismissal of staff of the F.R.E. hospitals, subject in the case of doctors, to the approval of the Surgeon-General. The Superintendents of Hospitals may appoint or dismiss staff, other than doctors, subject to the approval of the Civil Surgeon.

(*b*) The hospitals are under direct charge of Medical Officers and are inspected and supervised by Civil Surgeons, Additional Civil Surgeons, Inspectors of Hospitals and the Deputy Surgeon-General, F.R.E. Arrangement has also been made for the appointment of an Advisory Committee consisting of local people for each F.R.E. hospital which is entitled to visit the hospital and to record suggestions or complaints for the information of the Civil Surgeon.

(*c*) These hospitals are under the administrative control of the Civil Surgeons. The District Magistrates and the Subdivisional Officers help the Civil Surgeons in such matter as obtaining local credit where necessary and without interfering with the internal administration of the hospitals, endeavour to ensure that the Superintendents of Hospitals are not overcharged by the contractors and to assist them in obtaining supplies locally.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who are the members of this Advisory Committee?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Leading men are selected for the local committees.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House whether the members of the Legislature in whose constituencies the F.R.E. hospitals stand are entitled to be members of the respective committees concerned?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: They may be members; they are not debarred.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether a member of the Legislature can be the ex-officio member of the F.R.E. hospital situated in his constituency?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for ten minutes for prayer.)

(*After adjournment.*)

Average annual requirement of quinine in Bengal.

*53. **Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) what has been the last five years' average figure of malaria cases in Bengal;

(*b*) how many people of Bengal suffered from malaria last year;

(*c*) of them how many died;

(*d*) what is the department's method of collecting statistics in such cases?

(*e*) what is the average annual requirement of quinine in Bengal;

(*f*) how much quinine each year during the last five years this Government indented from the Government of India?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) 4,429,481 cases treated in hospitals and dispensaries on an average for the 5 years 1939-1943.

(*b*) 4,754,521 in 1943.

(*c*) 674,330 deaths from malaria in 1943.

(*d*) Before 1944 vital statistics were collected by Presidents, Union Boards, from *hatchitas* of village chaukidars. Since early 1944 vital statistics are in the majority of districts collected directly from the chaukidars by the Thana Sanitary Inspectors who have been appointed Registrars of Births and Deaths for the thanas. The thana returns are in both systems submitted to the District Health Officer for compilation of the district monthly return for submission to the Director of Public Health. Figures of malaria cases treated in hospitals and dispensaries are submitted to Civil Surgeons and thence to the Surgeon-General with the Government of Bengal annually in the prescribed forms.

(*e*) On the basis of malaria cases occurring about 275,000 lbs. of quinine would be required to treat every malaria case in Bengal that attends a dispensary or hospital.

(*f*) Quinine indented from Government of India during the last five years is shown below:—

1939	... Nil.
1940	... Nil.
1941	... Nil.
1942-43—	
Quinine salts	... 44,951 lbs.
Cinchona febrifuge	... 17,283 lbs.
Quinine substitutes	... Nil.
1943-44—	
Quinine salts	... 89,150 lbs.
Cinchona febrifuge	... 24,800 lbs.
Quinine substitutes (tablets of atebrine)	7,395,000

Number of deaths due to malaria in municipal and rural Bengal.

***54. Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of deaths due to malaria that have taken place in (*i*) municipal and (*ii*) rural Bengal during each of the last six months since May, 1944;

(*b*) the number of such deaths during the same period of each of the last three years; and

(*c*) the reason why the measures taken have failed to control the epidemic and prevent the large mortality due to the same this year?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) and (*b*) A statement is laid on the Library Table.

(*c*) The total mortality though higher compared with the previous year in the earlier part of the period in question came down appreciably during the latter part showing that the measures initiated for control of the epidemic were taking effect. The higher mortality in the earlier part is attributed to the mal-nutrition of the previous year the effect of which was persisting till then.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the total mortality in the period in question in 1944 was much higher than the total mortality in 1942 or in 1941, that is, the years previous to the famine year?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want notice.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, in his reply the Parliamentary Secretary has said that the total mortality though higher compared with the previous year in the earlier part of the period in question came down appreciably during the latter part showing that the measures initiated for control of the epidemics were taking effect. My further question is, whether having regard to the fact that the total mortality in June was 40,706, in July 43,391, in August 47,824, in September 49,707 and in October 54,925, will the Hon'ble Minister be prepared to state mortality is not on the increase since June? If not how can Government claim that the measures taken by them are producing effect and reducing mortality?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want time to answer this. I want further notice.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Prayer for increase of family allowances of certain security prisoners.

14. Mr. PRATUL CHANDRA GANGULI: (*a*) Has the attention of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department been drawn to the petitions of the following security prisoners complaining about the inadequacy of the allowances granted to them for the maintenance of their families, and praying for the increment of the same:—

(1) Sreejut Atindra Mohan Roy, of Comilla;

(2) Sreejut Jamini Mohan Pal, of Comilla;

(3) Sreejut Tridib Kumar Chowdhury, of Murshidabad;

(4) Dr. Sarat Kumar Sen, of Dacca;

(5) Sreejut Makhan Lal Dutt, of Dacca;

(6) Sreejut Chiranjib Misra, of Dacca;

(7) Sreejut Tarani Bhusan Shome, of Dacca;

(8) Sreejut Jadunath Bhattacharji, of Comilla;

(9) Sreejut Dhirendra Chandra Sen, of Dacca;

(10) Sreejut Sachindra Chandra Chakravarty, of Dacca;

(11) Sreejut Dinesh Chandra Ghatak, of Calcutta; and

(12) Sreejut Promode Ranjan Das Gupta, of Comilla?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken to increase the amount of their family allowances?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in view of the scarcity and high prices of the essentials of life the Government are considering the desirability of increasing the amount of the allowances granted to the above mentioned security prisoners?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The allowances have been increased in all the cases.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Medical treatment of Srijut Adwaita Dutta, a security prisoner.

15. Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that security prisoner Srijut Adwaita Dutta is ailing and is at present confined in the Presidency Jail Hospital since the 22nd July, 1943, for about two months now;

(*ii*) that immediately after his arrest on the 26th September, 1942, he was admitted into the Presidency Jail Hospital and was confined there for treatment for two months;

(*iii*) that he has had to pass almost half the term of his detention so far in the Jail Hospital;

(*iv*) that there is no appreciable relief or improvement of his (extremely) complicated ailments which are causing him excruciating suffering;

(*v*) that a petition stating his ailments and medical history was submitted by him to the Medical Officer, Presidency Jail, on the 21st May, 1943;

(*vi*) that a petition asking for permission to consult Dr. Moti Mokherjee, of Bally, Howrah, a homœopath, was addressed by him to the Deputy Commissioner, Special Branch, on the 12th July, 1943, but was rejected;

(*vii*) that on the 30th July, 1943, Medical Officer, Presidency Jail, recommended his case to Government for sanctioning examination by a specialist;

(*viii*) that the petition asking for the transfer to the Medical College Hospital as an indoor patient for immediate relief was submitted by him to the Jail Superintendent on the 30th July, 1943;

(*ix*) that a representation in writing to the same effect was made to the Inspector-General of Prisons, Bengal, on the 2nd August, 1943; and

(*x*) that on the 24th August, 1943, a reminder to the above was made by him to the Inspector-General with also a prayer for Government permission to allow him necessary facilities to consult Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy pending arrangement for specialist examination by Government as recommended by the Medical Officer, Presidency Jail, on the 30th July, 1943?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have arranged for—

(*i*) his proper examination and treatment by a specialist; or

(*ii*) his admission for treatment as an indoor-patient into the Medical College Hospital; or

(*iii*) giving him relief and facilities for consulting his own physicians from outside as he offered to do?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any of the communications addressed by Srijut Dutta except the one mentioned in (*a*) (*vi*) above which was rejected by Deputy Commissioner, Special Branch, has been replied to by Government or any of the aforementioned authorities addressed to?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) who replied;

(*ii*) on which dates; and

(*iii*) to what effect, with reference to his requests and Medical Officer's recommendations mentioned above?

(*e*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the nature of the ailments of Srijut Dutta revealed or complained of in the aforementioned—

(1) written communications,

(2) medical recommendation, and

(3) his medical history: and

(*ii*) whether Government are considering the desirability of—

(1) releasing him on medical grounds, or

(2) admitting him into the Medical College Hospital for proper treatment, and

(3) granting him permission and necessary facilities to consult Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy inside Presidency Jail?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) (*i*) Yes, the prisoner was kept in hospital for treatment for some months since July, 1943.

(*ii*) and (*v*) to (*x*) Yes.

(*iii*) My information is that he has been in Jail Hospital for about six months altogether.

(*iv*) He was cured of his glandular affections with treatment in Jail Hospital. Later on in June, 1944, he was admitted in the Medical College Hospitals for further treatment. He was discharged from there in September, 1944, and has since been receiving treatment according to the prescriptions of the Professor of Medicine.

(*b*) (*i*) and (*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) No.

(*c*) The petitions were not formally replied but Government decisions on all the petitions were communicated to the prisoner verbally by the Jail Superintendent as soon as he received any reply.

(*d*) and (*e*) Do not arise.

(*f*) (*i*) The prisoner in his representations complained of burning sensation in the gall bladder region, kidney region, etc., and also scarcity of urine. The Medical Officer at first examined and treated him in the Jail Hospital but as the prisoner did not get any substantial relief thereby, he was recommended for examination by a specialist of the Medical College Hospitals. This examination was made and according to the specialist's recommendation he was admitted as an indoor-patient of the Medical College Hospitals on the 12th June, 1944, and discharged after treatment on the 1st September, 1944. He was also examined by a Medical Board on the 25th November, 1944.

(*ii*) (1) and (3) No.

(2) He was admitted into the Medical College Hospitals.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Professor of Medicine of the Medical College was invited to attend that meeting of the Medical Board?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I refer the honourable member to my reply yesterday. This was the question put to me yesterday.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: This is a different question. There was no reply to the question whether there was a meeting of the Board.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, there was.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer given today that the Board refused to release him on ground of health on the face of the recommendation of the Professor of the Medical College under whose medical treatment this patient was, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how the opinion of the medical officer who was in charge of the patient disregarded by the Board?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the grounds on which the Board refused to release this prisoner on the face of the recommendation of the Professor in charge of Medicine under whose charge this political prisoner was?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He was examined by the Physician Specialist of the Medical College Hospitals and he was sent first as an out-door patient but he was advised for admission as indoor patient which was done. Afterwards he was discharged. Now again he is going to be under the treatment of the Physician Specialist of the Medical College Hospitals. The doctor has recommended that he should again be put under his treatment and that is being given effect to.

Grant of family allowances to Babus Aditya Kumar Bankura and Gobinda Kumar Sinha, security prisoners.

16. Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that Babus Aditya Kumar Bankura, Sabang, Midnapore, and Gobinda Kumar Sinha, Garbeta, Midnapore, have been detained in the Midnapore Central Jail as security prisoners since the date of their arrests on 26th October, 1942, and 14th February, 1943, respectively;

(*ii*) that Aditya Babu had an annual income of more than Rs.1,000 from special agency of a Life Insurance Company and other sources and Gobinda Babu had an annual income of nearly Rs.700 from business of fuel wood;

(*iii*) that the said prisoners are the only earning members of their families;

(*iv*) that Aditya Babu has old mother and wife and 5 minor daughters including one daughter of marriageable age, and Gobinda Babu has wife, 4 children and a sister with 6 children, as dependants;

(*v*) that the dwelling houses of the said prisoners were damaged during the last cyclone, and heavy damage was done to their agricultural income;

(*vi*) that Aditya Babu applied to the Government on 18th December, 1942, followed by reminders on 21st May, 28th September, 4th November, 7th December, 1943, and to the Hon'ble Minister on the 17th October, 1943, followed by reminder on 23rd November, 1943, and Gobinda Babu applied to the Government on 11th March, 1943, followed by reminders on 29th May, 5th July, 5th August, 29th September, 25th November, 1943, and 1st January, 1944; and

(*vii*) that Aditya Babu was informed by the Government Memo. No. 9484H.J., dated Calcutta, the 17th August, 1943, that his case was under consideration, and Gobinda Babu was informed by the Government Memo. No. 4126 of 20th April, 1943, that his case was being considered?

(*b*) If the reply to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether—

(*i*) any further step has been taken on their petition; and

(*ii*) he is considering the desirability of considering the petitions and granting them suitable family allowances?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*)(*i*) Yes, but Babu Aditya Kumar Bankura was released on 21st February, 1944.

(*ii*) No. My information is that Aditya Babu has about 25 bighas of landed property and a small zamindary with an annual income of Rs.25. He had no other source of income. Gobinda Babu had practically no income of his own before arrest.

(*iii*) No. Gobinda Babu has a brother who manages his household affairs including the joint cultivation.

(*iv*) No. Aditya Babu has his mother, wife and four minor children and Gobinda Babu has his wife and four minor children as his dependants.

(*v*) I have no information.

(*vi*) Yes. Several petitions were received.

(*vii*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes. Aditya Babu was granted an allowance of Rs.20 per month for the period of his detention. The petitions of Gobinda Babu were rejected by Government after careful consideration.

Increment of family allowance to Babu Prafulla Chakrabarty, M.A., a detenu.

17. Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that Babu Prafulla Chakrabarty, M.A., Professor, B. M. College, Barisal, is now a detenu detained in Barisal Jail; and

(*ii*) that on account of his detention he has lost the post he held?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any allowance has been granted to him; and

(*ii*) if so, what is the amount?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the allowance is determined in consideration of the income the person detained used to earn before his arrest and in consideration of the number of dependants upon him (detenu)?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the above matter was taken into consideration in granting the allowance to Babu Prafulla Chakrabarty?

(*e*) Have the Government received any petition from the said Babu Prafulla Chakrabarty requesting the increment of his allowance?

(*f*) Do the Government consider the desirability of increasing the allowance of Babu Prafulla Chakrabarty?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*)(*i*), (*d*) and (*e*) Yes.

(*ii*) I have no such information.

(*b*) Yes, Rs.50 per month was originally granted with effect from the 18th September, 1942, and this has been increased to Rs.75 per month with effect from the 1st April, 1944.

(*c*) Yes, and in consideration of other sources of income of the family as well.

(*f*) I do not consider any further increase justified in this case.

Release of security prisoner Babu Krishna Gopal Lahiri on grounds of health.

18. Mr. JNANENDRA CHANDRA MAJUMDAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether security prisoner Babu Krishna Gopal Lahiri of Rajshahi, at present detained in the Buxa Special Reserve Jail, has been suffering from various ailments for more than 1½ years and has lost his weight to a very great extent;

(*ii*) whether the Superintendent and the Medical Officer of the Rajshahi Central Jail recommended his release on medical ground;

(*iii*) whether his old mother and his wife also sent petitions to the Government praying for his release; and

(*iv*) whether he is the eldest son of his mother and was the only earning member of his family?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action has been taken in the matter?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister contemplating the desirability of releasing him?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) (*i*) Yes. He has lost only 7 lbs. in weight.

(*ii*) He recommended release or transfer to any other jail of this security prisoner on medical grounds and the prisoner has been transferred to Buxa Special Reserve Jail.

(*iii*) and (*iv*) Yes.

(*b*) to (*d*) The prisoner is receiving adequate treatment in the Jail and I do not consider his release on medical grounds necessary.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer (*a*)(*ii*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why he was not released on the basis of this recommendation?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: His release was not considered safe on security grounds.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the recommendation, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to place his case before the Medical Board?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I may inform the honourable member that when he was transferred to the Buxa Special Jail, his weight was 119 lbs. The latest report, dated the 2nd February, 1945, shows that his present weight is 127 lbs. That shows that he has gained in weight. He is now doing well and is much better in health.

Reduction of grant to the Central Co-operative Anti-malaria and Public Health Society.

19. Mr. PATIRAM ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the Central Co-operative Anti-malaria and Public Health Society registered under Act 12 of the Co-operative Act has been working for combating malaria and other preventible diseases since 1919 in Bengal;

(*ii*) that His Excellency Lord Lytton, the ex-Governor of Bengal, was very much pleased to contribute a considerable sum to the above Society;

(*iii*) that the Society has collected a large amount of money from the public for the above purpose;

(*iv*) that the Government of Bengal has reduced the grant that had been given before to the Society; and

(*v*) that for want of adequate fund the Society has fallen in great difficulty to continue the noble work in this malaria-stricken Province?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of sanctioning an adequate grant-in-aid to the Society?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*)(*i*) and (*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) Government have no information in the matter.

(*iv*) Not in recent years.

(*v*) Government have no information as the Society expressed inability to supply certain particulars asked for by the Director of Public Health in this connection.

(*b*) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

Malaria epidemic in Birbhum district and steps taken by Government to check it.

20. Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJI: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health (Medical) Department aware—

(*i*) that incidence of malaria is very high in the district of Birbhum; and

(*ii*) that the suffering people are not getting proper treatment for want of medical help?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what steps have been taken to put a check to the spread of the epidemic; and

(*ii*) whether Government contemplate taking any steps for supply of free or cheap diet such as barley, sago, etc., to the sufferers?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) No such general complaint has reached Government.

(*b*) (*i*) Following are the anti-malaria drugs supplied up to the first week of November, 1944, to the Birbhum district:—

	Free.	Sale.
Quinine sulphate ..	115 lbs.	510lbs.
Cinchona febrifuge ..	315 lbs.	*Nil.*
Number of mepacrine tablets ..	695,000	1,280,000
Number of quinine ampoules ..	Nil	4,500

Besides the above, another 15 lakhs of mepacrine tablets have been supplied to be held in reserve stock in the District Jail to meet emergent demands.

(*ii*) No.

Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why restriction has been put to the supply of quinine now-a-days?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Sufficient quinine is not available from the Government of India, as quinine has been rationed; so we are trying to introduce its substitute as mepacrine tablets and other things.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Requisition of land in Tippera district.

*55. **Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that large areas of land including areas culturable, *nal* lands, *bhiti* lands, *bayan* lands and large areas of lands close to the Tripura Forest in the district of Tippera have been requisitioned under rule 75A of the Defence of India Rules for military purposes; and

(*ii*) that instructions were issued from the Government to the district authorities in the district of Tippera in the matter of determining compensation?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*)(*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table the copies of such instructions that were issued in the years 1943 and 1944?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what was the rule of compensations per acre of land culturable, *nal*, *bhiti*, *bayan* lands that was instructed to be allowed in the year 1943; and

(*ii*) what is the rate that has been suggested in the year 1944?

(*d*) Is it a fact that rate suggested in the year 1944 is less than the rate suggested in the year 1943?

(*e*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the reason for suggesting low rate?

(*f*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that in areas close to the Tripura Forest in the subdivision of Brahmanberia lands requisitioned are high lands where sugarcane and thatching grass and fuels used to be grown;

(*ii*) the prices of these articles are higher in the year 1944 than what they were in the year 1943;

(*iii*) that in the determination of compensation in the year 1943 contrary to the instruction even the low rate of Rs.10 per acre has been allowed in respect of lands in the Brahmanberia subdivision close to the Tripura Forest; and

(*iv*) who is the determining authority in the district of Tippera?

(*g*) Is it a fact that in the matter of determining compensation persons whose lands have been acquired are not heard and the compensation is determined in their absence?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea): It is regretted that the information cannot be supplied in the interests of security.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: With reference to question (*f*)(*iv*), viz., "who is the determining authority in the district of Tippera", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whom the people of Tippera are to approach in order to get any information with regard to the requisition of land?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: The District Magistrate.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether we are to approach the District Magistrate so far as compensation is concerned?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: The District Magistrate in his capacity as the Collector of the District.

Mr. SHAHEDALI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is the authority to determine compensation?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: He is the primary authority. Of course, in cases where matters are referred to the Government, they are the authority.

Breach of Chetua embankment circuit in Ghatal and loss of aman crop.

***56. Mr. HARENDRA NATH DOLUI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware that the recent flood of Rupnarayan overloaded with waters from the river Damodar, has caused a breach over the embankment of Chetua circuit in the subdivision of Ghatal in the district of Midnapore?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any measure was promptly adopted by the Government for the relief of the villagers who have lost their *aman* crop submerged in flood water; and

(*ii*) whether the Government contemplate to help the villagers for cultivation of *boro* crops by constructing a cross dam over the river Selyee at the expense of Government as a test relief?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: (*a*) and (*b*)(*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes. The local officers took immediate action in the matter.

Mr. HARENDRA NATH DOLUI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state for what relief operation fund was supplied?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Funds were allotted for different purposes, namely, for gratuitous relief, distribution of food, distribution of clothes and various other purposes. If the honourable member wants details, I can supply them later.

Mr. HARENDRA NATH DOLUI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a Government fund or a non-official fund?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I am not exactly aware of the details as to how a non-official fund is used. So far as Government funds are concerned, I can let the honourable member know all about them later, if he so desires.

Mr. HARENDRA NATH DOLUI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any enquiry has been made as regards the steps taken by the local officers?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Relief measures adopted were from time to time reported to the local Government who had to sanction different allotments, and since there are no complaints received from any quarters, the question of enquiry does not arise.

Petition of one Bagal Chandra Das to District Magistrate, Birbhum, for pecuniary help.

***57. Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJEE:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware—

(*i*) that one Bagal Chandra Das of village Kalipore, police-station Suri, district Birbhum, submitted a petition to the District Magistrate on the 24th September, 1944, with a forwarding note of Professor S. N. Chatterji in support of his statement, asking for pecuniary help as he was suffering acutely from starvation;

(*ii*) that his condition being serious he was admitted in the Suri F.R.E. Hospital, by his neighbours on the 15th October, and he died on the 16th October, 1944; and

(*iii*) that no reply from the District Magistrate has yet been received?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of making an enquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) He was admitted in the F.R.E. Hospital on the 16th October, 1944, when he was suffering from intercurrent pneumonia and he died of heart failure on the 17th October, 1944.

(*iii*) The District Magistrate received the application on the 5th October, 1944, and he immediately sanctioned a sum of Rs. 15 on the 6th October, 1944. But neither the petitioner nor any one on his behalf turned up to receive payment. Professor S. N. Chatterji who had forwarded the application was aware of the fact that a sum of Rs.15 had been sanctioned by the District Magistrate.

(*b*) No.

Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJEE: In view of the fact that a sum of Rs. 15 had been sanctioned, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any information was sent to the patient to that effect?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I am not sure, but presumably the Collector did it.

Gratuitous relief in Tangail, Mymensingh.

*58. **Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how much money has been spent by Government as gratuitous relief in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district;

(*b*) how much of this money was spent to remove the sufferings of the Hindu community;

(*c*) how much money has been spent on test relief work; and

(*d*) how much money on this head was received by the Hindus?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: (*a*) Rs.3,02,751.

(*b*) and (*d*) The information is not available as relief is given to people in distress irrespective of the community to which they belong.

(*c*) Rs.1,05,000.

Relief measures amongst the aboriginals of Tangail subdivision.

*59. **Mr. AMRITA LAL MANDAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state what relief measures were organised by the Subdivisional Officer, Tangail, for the distribution of free food amongst the aboriginals in the hill areas of Madhupur, Kalibati, Ghatail and Basail thanas during the year 1943-44?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state showing the following details, viz.:—

(*i*) number of free kitchens started during 1943-44 in those areas separately; and

(*ii*) dates on which the Subdivisional Officer, Tangail, visited the different hill areas during 1943-44?

(*c*) Is it a fact that relief operation not being started in time amongst the aboriginals their suffering was immense and their death rate was high?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: (*a*) Nineteen gruel kitchens were run for 99 days for supplying free food amongst the aboriginals in those areas.

(*b*) (*i*)—

Madhupur	...	5
Kalibati	...	5
Ghatail	...	3
Basail	...	6
Total	...	19

(*ii*) July, 1943—1st, 2nd and 5th. September, 1943—4th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 12th, 21st and 22nd. October, 1943—11th and 12th. December, 1943—6th, 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th and 31st. January, 1944—12th, 17th and 29th. February, 1944—22nd and 21st. March, 1944—17th, 22nd and 24th.

(*c*) No.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us in which places in Basail, Kalibati and Madhupur, these gruel kitchens were situated?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Unfortunately I have no topographical knowledge of the place. I cannot give the exact location of those villages, but if the honourable member wants the details, I can supply them later.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us how much of rice, *bajra* and *dal* was given to those kitchens every day?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: The quantity supplied was calculated on a *per capita* basis; and according to the number of people to be relieved, rice, *dal* and other things were allotted to the gruel kitchens.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us how many people were fed in those centres?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I want notice.

Distribution of quinine and mepacrine in mofussil areas.

***60. Mr. J. N. SMART:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether he is aware that the public are still experiencing considerable difficulty in obtaining quinine and mepacrine in mofussil areas;

(*b*) (*i*) the total quantity of (A) quinine and (B) mepacrine distributed in Bengal from 1st January, 1944, to date, and

(*ii*) the total quantity of (A) quinine and (B) mepacrine remaining to be distributed for the current year;

(*c*) the number and nature of the agencies, district by district, appointed in the Province for (A) free distribution and (B) distribution by sale of—(*i*) quinine and (*ii*) mepacrine;

(*d*) the average quantity of (A) quinine and (B) mepacrine distributed to each agent; and

(*e*) the measures taken to give publicity to the sources from which quinine and mepacrine can be obtained by the public?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) No. There might have been isolated cases of difficulty as is inevitable in an organisation on a large scale like that set up for distribution of anti-malarial drugs but this difficulty is not general.

(*b*) (*i*) Quinine and cinchona—97,655 lbs.

Number of quinine ampoules—286,434.
Number of mepacrine tablets—75,066,800.

(*ii*) Quinine and cinchona—41,362 lbs.
Number of quinine ampoules—213,566.
Number of mepacrine tablets—103,950,855.

A further supply of 102,982,345 mepacrine tablets is expected to be made available by the Government of India during 1944-45.

(*c*) and (*d*) A statement is laid on the Library Table.

(*e*) Wide publicity has been given by beat of drums, display of notice in front of selling shops, circulation through Union Board Presidents, District Health Officers, Subdivisional Officers, Sanitary Inspectors, Heads of Educational Institutions, Circle Officers, and other executive officers, advertisement in local newspapers and exhibition of slides in cinema houses. Propaganda is also made by Publicity Officers and National War Front Officers. List of selling agents is also displayed in prominent places.

Srijut MANINDRA BHUSAN SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Sanitary Inspectors are responsible for giving publicity only or they are appointed as distributing agents also?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: They are only a class of distributing agents.

Srijut MANINDRA BHUSAN SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether members of the District Board are allowed to distribute quinine or mepacrine tablets?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: They may be allowed.

Srijut MANINDRA BHUSAN SINHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government's letter contained any instruction to the Civil Surgeon that the members of the District Board, if they choose, can be given quinine for distribution?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Not only the members of the District Board, but persons who are holding less important position are also entitled to sell, if the Civil Surgeon or the District Officer think them to be suitable persons to whom quinine and anti-malarial drugs should be distributed.

Srijut MANINDRA BHUSAN SINHA: It is the Civil Surgeon of the District or the Collector of the District who appoints these agents?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: At present, the Civil Surgeon is the appointing authority.

Mr. P. BANERJI: Is the Hon'ble Minister in a position to state how much of the 103,950,855 mepacrine tablets that were made available during the year 1944-45 had been obtained from the Government of India?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The entire stock was obtained from the Government of India.

Emergency hospitals for the aboriginals of Tangail subdivision.

***81. Mr. AMRITA LAL MONDAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government (Medical) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of deaths due to malaria and other diseases amongst the aboriginals in the hill areas of Madhupur, Ghatail, Kalihati and

Basail in the subdivision of Tangail from March, 1943, to October, 1944; and

(*ii*) whether any emergency hospitals have been started specially for those people in those areas by the Subdivisional Officer, Tangail?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many aboriginal patients were treated in the different emergency hospitals specially meant for them in those areas, month by month, from March, 1943, to October, 1944?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*)(*i*). No separate statistics of deaths of aboriginals are maintained.

(*ii*) No; F.R.E. hospitals have, however, been established at Madhupur, Ghatail and Kalihati where all classes of people are treated.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) Because the present emergency hospitals are meant for all classes of people of those areas including aboriginals.

Control of Vagrancy Department.

*62. **Mr. S. A. SALIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government (Civil Defence) Department be pleased to state—

(1) (*i*) how long the Control of Vagrancy Department under the Government of Bengal has been opened; and

(*ii*) since what time it has been actually functioning; and

(2) (*i*) how many superior staff have up till now been appointed in the establishment of this department; and

(*ii*) who made these appointments?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a statement of the communal ratio of all these appointments showing separately the personnel belonging to the different grades and cadres?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) if any Vagrants' Home has up till now been opened;

(*ii*) if so, where and how many;

(*iii*) what is the total number of vagrants detained in those Homes at present;

(*iv*) what is the total amount of money spent up to date for the clothing, bedding and other miscellaneous articles in connection with the vagrants;

(*v*) whether tenders were called for the purchase of these articles;

(*vi*) if so, whether the lowest tender was always accepted;

(*vii*) if not, why not;

(*viii*) who made the final selection of the contractors—a committee or a single person;

(*ix*) for how many Vagrants' Homes the Government made provision originally;

(*x*) how many vagrants were proposed to be detained there;

(*xi*) whether the total number of Homes originally proposed to be opened by Government has been started by this time; and

(*xii*) if not, what are the reasons thereof?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) (1) (*i*) and (*ii*) Since 5th May, 1942.

(2) (*i*) One hundred and twenty-seven.

(*ii*) Seven (one Controller and six Managers) were appointed by Government and the rest by the Controller of Vagrancy.

(*b*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*c*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Four. Male Home and Leper Home at 24, Canal South Road, Female Home at 98, Manicktolla Main Road, and Children Home at 17/1, Canal Street, Calcutta.

(*iii*) Nine hundred and nine on 6th December, 1944.

(*iv*) Rs.90,959-14-3 up to the 30th September, 1944.

(*v*) Yes, except in cases of purchases from the Jail Department.

(*vi*) Yes, except in very few cases only.

(*vii*) Because of inferior quality of the samples.

(*viii*) Controller of Vagrancy, Bengal.

(*ix*) Six Homes at Mahalandi.

(*x*) Five thousand.

(*xi*) No.

(*xii*) Construction of the Homes at Mahalandi being not completed.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (b) of starred question No. 62.

	Name of post.	Muslim.	Caste Hindu.	Scheduled Caste.	Other Communities.	Remarks.
1.	Controller of Vagrancy.	..	1	..	..	
2.	Managers, Vagrants' Home.	3	2	1	..	
3.	Assistant Managers, Vagrants' Home.	3	2	1	..	
4.	Medical Officers, Casual Vagrants' Home.	1	1	..	..	
5.	Medical Officers, Receiving Centre.	..	2	..	..	
6.	Compounders ..	..	..	..	..	Now vacant. Originally 1 Muslim and 1 Caste Hindu were appointed.
7.	Clerks ..	7	6	2	..	
8.	Head Warders ..	2	1	..	1	
9.	Head Wardress..	..	1	..	..	
10.	Warders ..	33	24	7	1	
11.	Wardresses ..	9	10	2	..	
		58	50	13	2	
			123			
			4 (vacant).			
			127			

Death rate in F.R.E. hospitals at Kishoreganj subdivision, Mymensingh.

***68. Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government (Medical) Department aware of the fact—

(*i*) that death rate in emergency hospitals is abnormally high in Kishoreganj subdivision; and

(*ii*) that this is due to the absolute callousness of the hospital authorities and the staff?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the death rate of patients in emergency hospitals in the subdivision of Kishoreganj since their establishment up to September, 1944, showing therein the beds of each hospital?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) No. The death rate cannot be called abnormally high considering the fact that a large number of moribund cases were admitted into the F.R.E. hospitals at the beginning.

(*b*) A statement is laid on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (b) of starred question No. 63.

Name of hospitals.	Total cases treated.	Died.	Ratio of deaths per cent. of total number treated.	Number of beds.
1. Kishoreganj	2,626	429	16·33	100
2. Bajitpur	625	57	9·12	50
3. Hussainpur	935	43	4·59	50
4. Pakundia	291	25	8·59	20
5. Kuliarchar	504	34	6·74	20
6. Tarail	426	8	1·87	50
7. Kathiadi	377	81	21·48	20
8. Karimganj	381	37	9·71	20
9. Bhairab	453	67	14·79	20

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the percentage of moribund cases that were admitted into the F. R. E. hospitals at the beginning as suggested in the question?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The percentage cannot be stated but the number is very high.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the percentage of death rate even for the year 1944-45 was very high?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Of course, it was high but not very high.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why even in the year 1944-45 when there was no famine or other special cause, the death rate was so high?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The patients who came into these hospitals were suffering from mal-nutrition and after-effects of famine.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to remedy or check the death rate in these hospitals, particularly because the patients generally come from the poorer class?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Every possible care is taken of the patients.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the hospital authorities do not take sufficient care of the patients because the former belong to a class far above that of the patients?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Government have no such information.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Is it a fact that the nurses and other staff of these hospitals generally have no sympathy for the patients because the latter are far below the status to which the former belong?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: If any specific case is made out about laches on the part of any officers concerned, then certainly Government will take every possible step to remedy the grievance.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there was any complaint from myself about the Kishoreganj hospitals and if so what action was taken thereon?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: There was some complaint but I do not actually remember what sort of complaint that is. So far as I remember, there was no such allegation that the nurses and other staff of the hospitals coming from another class do not deal with the patients properly because they belong to the poorer class.

Complaint against the clerk in charge of the distribution of quinine at Mymensingh.

*64. **Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government (Medical) Department aware of the fact—

(*i*) that the clerk in charge of the distribution of quinine at Mymensingh is an inhabitant of Chittagong; and

(*ii*) that he is a close relation of late Civil Surgeon, Mymensingh (Mr. Taluqdar)?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any allegation of corruption, jobbery and nepotism was brought against him; and

(*ii*) whether any action was taken thereon?

(*c*) Is it a fact that he was appointed to this job in supersession of the rightful claim of many deserving and well-qualified candidates of Mymensingh?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*)(*i*) and (*ii*) and (*b*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Explanations were asked from the ex-Civil Surgeon Dr. Talukdar which were considered satisfactory by the Surgeon-General.

(*c*) No. He was selected in an open competition by the predecessor of Dr. Talukdar.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to place before the House the explanation of Dr. Talukdar on the points raised in (*a*)(*i*) and (*ii*)?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: It is a document of a confidential nature but I may say that the Government is satisfied with the explanation given.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the explanation says that the charges of corruption, nepotism and jobbery so far as the distribution of quinine was concerned were unfounded?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The allegation of corruption, nepotism and jobbery was brought against the Civil Surgeon. The report says that the Civil Surgeon was free from all charges.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the report of corruption, nepotism and jobbery in the office of the Civil Surgeon was a fact or not?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: It was not based on facts.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there was any enquiry made into these allegations by any officer of Government or anybody else?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The Civil Surgeon was the officer who enquired into the matter.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the charge of corruption, nepotism and jobbery was against the Civil Surgeon himself, how can he enquire into the matter?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The Civil Surgeon was the person who was entrusted with the duty of making an enquiry and submitting a report?

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: I want to know from the Government why the person against whom the charge of corruption, nepotism and jobbery was brought was himself entrusted with the duty of making an enquiry?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: This charge concerned the Civil Surgeon and not the other person. The report with regard to the conduct of the Civil Surgeon was found by Government to be satisfactory.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the allegation against the Civil Surgeon was not enquired into by another competent person besides the Civil Surgeon himself?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: A report was called for from the Civil Surgeon. He submitted it through the Surgeon-General. The report was found to be quite satisfactory and the Government was satisfied.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government are willing to have an enquiry made by some competent authority or some other person, official or non-official, into the allegation of corruption, nepotism and jobbery against the Civil Surgeon?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Government will consider the matter.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that no licence of quinine or other things is given unless Rs. 10 is given to this office?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Government is not aware of that, but if any specific case is given Government will certainly take steps.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question time over.

Point of Order.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: On a point of order, Sir. Some observations made here last evening from both sides of the House were withdrawn but they appeared in the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" of today.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: That is a correct report.

Maulvi MUHAMMAD ISRAIL: Correct or incorrect is not the question. Those things were withdrawn in the House.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, the question time is not yet over. That question can be raised later on. We have still ten minutes left for questions on account of the prayer adjournment.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: A question has been raised by Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali whether the ten minutes given for prayer should be included within the question time. I think the first hour is for questions including the prayer time.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir, excluding the prayer time. That has been the practice of the House and you had been following that practice previously also.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, if that is the desire of the House, I have no objection.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Security prisoners Srijuts Satya Ranjan Bakshi and Suren Sarkar.

*65. **Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT MAZUMDAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state separately—

(*i*) the place where security prisoners—

(1) Srijut Satya Ranjan Bakshi, and

(2) Srijut Suren Sarkar,

are lodged at present;

(*ii*) the present state of their health;

(*iii*) their present weight;

(*iv*) the weight at the time (date and year) of the commencement of their detention; and

(*v*) the ailments, if any, they are at present suffering from?

(*b*) whether any family allowances are being paid to them? If so, how much?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): The Home Minister has no information regarding Babu Satya Ranjan Bakshi who is detained outside Bengal under the orders of the Central Government.

Two persons named Babu Surendra Nath Sarkar were detained as security prisoners, one of whom has since been released on medical grounds. The other security prisoner who is now in the Dum Dum Central Jail, is suffering from chronic bronchitis and general debility. His weight on the 12th April, 1942, date of arrest, was 94 lbs. His present weight is 108 lbs. He is getting symptomatic treatment. He has been granted a family allowance of Rs.60 per month.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if after receiving the notice to the effect as to where these two security prisoners were lodged at present Government made any enquiry as to the place of detention of Srijut Satya Ranjan Bakshi?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The whole question was referred to the Government of India and according to their advice we stated that because he is a prisoner under the orders of the Central Government, the Government of Bengal have no information.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Are we to take it that the Central Government refused to furnish information about his whereabouts?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The Central Government will certainly furnish information if the question is addressed to them.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: We gave a notice requiring information regarding the place of his detention. That was a definite notice in question (*a*)(*i*). I now ask the Hon'ble Minister to let the House know about the place of Mr. Bakshi's detention.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The Bengal Government have no information.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Did the Hon'ble Minister try?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: We did refer the question to the Central Government.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to answer regarding Babu Surendra Nath Sarkar who is now in detention, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the present age and height of this security prisoner?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice. But I fail to understand what benefit will be gained by having this information.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I want to show that he is underweight.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He was 94 lbs at the time of his arrest and he has now gained 14 lbs.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of enquiring from the Government of India about the whereabouts of Mr. Satya Ranjan Bakshi?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: This Government has no responsibility regarding the detention of Mr. Bakshi.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government think it their duty to bring news about any person of Bengal who is arrested in Bengal and taken away from Bengal?

(No reply.)

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, the Bengal Government is bound to answer any question relating to a resident of Bengal who also arrested in Bengal. It is a matter of public concern so far as Bengal is concerned. Therefore the question is addressed to the Bengal Government. If the Government of Bengal is in possession of any fact and the question is addressed to them, they cannot say that the question should be addressed to the Government of India. After all, this matter is a public concern of Bengal and so they are bound to answer the question if they are in possession of the fact which would enable them to reply to the question.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I might say that this security prisoner was arrested under the orders of the Government of India. He was arrested certainly in Bengal and then sent out of Bengal under the direction of the Government of India. The responsibility for the arrest and detention of the security prisoner is entirely of the Government of India and this Government has no responsibility.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: It is not a question of responsibility for arrest and detention. The whereabout of the prisoner is a

question of public concern in Bengal. This security prisoner has been removed outside Bengal and we Bengalees are entitled to know where he is detained at the present moment. If the Government of India do not furnish the Government of Bengal with information about the place of his detention, the Government of Bengal may say "we do not know anything about it". But that is not a fact. The fact is, and Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali has admitted, that he is in possession of the information regarding the place of detention.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir, I did not say that. I was asked whether any reference was made to the Government of India, and I said, we referred the whole question to the Government of India and they gave the reply that the Bengal Government had no responsibility in this matter, and that is all.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to refer the matter again to the Government of India and tell them that in the Bengal Legislative Assembly a question has been put enquiring about the place of his detention? It is a matter of public concern affecting Bengal, and the Government of Bengal can legitimately ask to know the place of his detention and let the Assembly know it.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: If the honourable member so desires we may again refer to the Government of India to ascertain the place of detention of the security prisoner.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: So we desire as a matter of principle.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That may be done.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Srijut Satya Ranjan Bakshi is still alive?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: We have no information, but he must be alive.

Delay in delivery of a letter written by Mr. Khagendra Nath Das Gupta, M.L.A.

*66. **Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the letter, dated 8th January, 1944, of Mr. Khagendra Nath Das Gupta, M.L.A., now a security prisoner in the Rajshahi Central Jail, addressed to the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra Goswami, Minister for Finance Department, Government of Bengal, has been forwarded by the Assistant Secretary, Home (Jails) Department, Government of Bengal, to the Finance Department on the 18th July, 1944, i.e., more than six months after receipt of that letter by him for placing it before the Hon'ble Minister?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for this unusual delay in forwarding the letter to the addressee?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The delay in this case, which is deeply regretted, was due to lack of diligence on the part of certain office personnel.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether or not the object of writing the letter has been frustrated by the delay?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know what the object was. I am unable to answer the question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what step Government have taken to prevent recurrence of such delay and has the officer in question been punished or warned?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Steps have been taken to prevent recurrence of such delay and the officer concerned has been taken to task.

Srijut NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who the officer in question is?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have said that the delay was due to lack of diligence on the part of certain office personnel.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any action was taken against the man?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have just said that.

Non-Official Resolutions.

Maulvi ABDUR RAZZAK: মিঃ ডেপুটী স্পীকার, স্যার, মৌলবী আবদুর আলি সাহেবের নামে যে যে-সরকারী প্রস্তাবটী আছে সেটা আমি move করতে চাই।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: আমি আপনাকে হাউসের rule অনুসারে permission দিতে পারি না।

Maulvi ABDUR RAZZAK: স্যার, আমি বলতে চাই যে...

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: আপনি বসা করে বসুন।

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg to move that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Bengal should set at liberty, without further delay, all political security prisoners detained in Bengal and all persons convicted of offences connected with political movements or disturbances.

Sir, little did I think that we would have an opportunity on the first non-official resolution day to place before this House and before the Government our demand that the flowers of Bengal that have been detained without trial or with trial on flimsy grounds connected with political disturbances be immediately set at liberty, but, Sir, Providence did so ordain that this question should be the foremost question coming before the Legislature and so although there were four other resolutions that got the fortune of ballot before this motion, somehow or other Providence so ordained that all the four resolutions preceding this one could be absolutely quashed, because, Providence wants, if not the Governmentof Bengal, that the question of release of political prisoners in Bengal should be tackled and taken up by the Legislature at the earliest possible opportunity.

Sir, we had been told that for security reasons political prisoners must be detained inside the prison gates. The very much well equipped Parliamentary Secretary of the Chief Minister cleverly replies always that for security reasons they cannot disclose the reasons for their detention. We demand what security reasons could there be to detain some of the best souls of India, some of the best sons of Bengal for eternal period. It is now more than practically quarter of a century that we have been insistently demanding on the maintenance of civil liberties in this country and it is more than 12 years that we have been insistently demanding that Government should not exercise any extraordinary powers to detain any person and to deprive him of his liberty without proper trial. All our cries have been so far in the wilderness, although it has been claimed that the Muslim League Government of Bengal has been examining the cases of political prisoners from time to time and a more liberal policy is being followed by the present Government compared to the past. If that is so, I demand that let that liberality be actually demonstrated by an immediate opening up of

the jail gates so far as political security prisoners and political prisoners convicted of offences connected with political movements or disturbances are concerned.

Sir, if we refer to the situation in the international field today, surely the position of the Government of Bengal is far more happy than a few months past—I am not talking of a few years past—and I do hope that even apart from the ultimate moral consideration Government would on considerations of the present day situation examine the possibility of releasing the political security prisoners at the earliest possible opportunity. And who are the political prisoners? The political prisoners of Bengal are persons of the highest reputation and of the highest integrity. They are reputed for their love for and services to the cause of the country; they are reputed for their integrity; they are loved by the people, respected by all. Heading their list is the ex-President of the Bengal Provincial Congress Committee, Babu Surendra Mohan Ghosh: heading against the list is the ex-leader of the Congress Parliamentary Party, Srijut Sarat Chandra Bose heading the list again on the other side are flowers of the Congress Assembly Party and of the Bose Group of the Congress Party and numerous members of the Legislature, and apart from members of the Legislature there are persons of unimpeachable character and service like Srijut Satindra Nath Sen and a host of others. How dare a Government that call themselves popular detain all these persons behind the jail gates for eternity? I could understand if for a limited period of a few days for reasons of enquiries Government would like to take the liberty of a person, but how long are they going to detain all these estimable persons?

Sir, the Government of India off and on suggest that the detention of the security prisoners is not a concern of the Government of India or of the British Parliament—it is a concern entirely of the Bengal Government. Elsewhere in the Council a few days ago the Chief Minister and the Home Minister of Bengal admitted that apart from a few persons detained under orders of the Government of India either within or outside this province the entire responsibility for detaining the political security prisoners and political convicts lies with the present Government of Bengal. If that is so, that is an additional ground for their applying themselves more vigorously in releasing these prisoners without the silghtest delay.

Sir, in answer to questions in the Assembly both here as well as in response to question in the Central Legislature we have been often told that Government are watching the earliest opportunity when they could release these prisoners without any difficulty to themselves—I am not talking of any danger to the community because we do not believe that there will be any danger if they are released.

Sir, there have been cases where the Governments of other provinces have taken recourse to this mean and ignominious tactics of keeping in detention persons belonging to the Legislature for political reasons to strengthen the hands of the respective Ministry and to make their life safe.

So far as Bengal is concerned, that argument also probably can be ruled out, for apart from the possible danger of the Ministry getting sabotaged because of bankruptcy of intellect or want of honest dealings there is hardly any possibility of their being forthwith outnumbered by mere release of about 9 or 10 prisoners who are members of this legislature.

Sir, I would also make a special pleading for a number of political prisoners who have been under detention for more than 12 and some more than 15 years, namely, prisoners connected with the Chittagong Armoury Raid case and the cases arising therefrom.

Sir, with regard to the Chittagong Armoury Raid prisoners, the Chief Minister knows very well that nearly three years ago these Armoury Raid prisoners, at least a large number of them, unequivocally declared themselves determined to assist the community in their fight against the Axis Powers. They also expressed themselves ready to help in the maintenance

of civil supplies and in civil defence. Government held out certain terms—not terms for the compliance of which or in exchange of which they would purchase their release but with a view to ascertain their present views. Curiously enough, although most of them did declare themselves unequivocally to hold views quite consistent with the safety of the community and although orders were issued from Writers' Buildings to get them released on a particular date which was a Sunday afternoon when I myself was a prisoner in the Alipore Central Jail, all on a sudden on the day previous, i.e., on Saturday afternoon, over the head of the Ministry an order was sent to the Jail Superintendent not to comply with the previous order of release which was under the authority of the Government of the time. Sir, a curious thing then happened. After my release I took the matter up with the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin and he very sympathetically gave me a hearing and tried to understand the situation. I was told in presence of the Chief Minister by the then Additional Secretary in the Home Department who was virtually the power behind the throne that it was the Eastern Theatre war situation, the Japanese menace and their progress which led to a sudden change in the decision of Government. Assurances were then held out by the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin as well as by such officers who were present that as soon as the Japanese situation would improve, they would not hesitate to release these prisoners who were actually given the order of release but detained for an indefinite period thereafter for a sudden change in the political situation. May I now ask the Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin if the time has now come to set these people to liberty and to allow them after a long spell of more than 12 years to enjoy the fruits of liberty and sunshine outside and to come and help the community in a manner which the community needs so badly at the present moment?

The second category of prisoners for which I also want to make a special pleading is that class which has been clapped in prison on an alleged ground of participating in or being directly or indirectly connected with movements or disturbances following the August resolution of the Indian National Congress. Sir, the political situation in India today has changed considerably since August 1942. It is well known that the actual power who is behind the Congress declared in no uncertain terms that 1944 is not 1942 and the operative part of the August resolution has lapsed. So far as the persons who were considered dangerous at that time are concerned therefore automatically there can be no danger anticipated from them. The operative part having lapsed Government can make out no case to keep them under detention any more, because surely they as the faithful followers of the Congress are not going to defy the mandate and decision and direction given by Mahatma Gandhi. Government have also realised and found that following the instructions of Mahatmaji, many a person against whom Government bore some animosity and tried to trace and arrest them voluntarily surrendered and courted imprisonment. That shows the change of outlook, change of mentality at least from the point of view of the Congress. Sir, it has also been fully noticed that members of the Congress Working Committee who were kept detained under orders of the Government of India are being released one by one and set at liberty. What then stands in the way of the Government of Bengal to be a little more realistic and why don't they take courage in both hands to allow the flowers of Bengal to again bloom and blossom in the sunshine of liberty and fresh air of freedom outside the jail gates?

Sir, so far as we are aware, the total number of political security prisoners and such convicted persons detained in the jails or restricted today is nearly 2,500 in Bengal. Surely, the Government of Bengal has got sufficiently strong police machinery to keep an eye over these persons and their movements after they come out of the jail. If they do not have that machinery yet I feel that the sum of Rs. 3 crores and above that Government has requisitioned for the Police Grant in 1945-46 they do not deserve to have.

Sir, the country calls for help from all directions. Bengal, as I told the House a few days ago, lies prostrate. Bengal needs the best of brains, the best of workers, the best of persons having the feelings and the love for service of the poor in their minds. We want them to be amongst their people to take responsibility for their rehabilitation and uplift and I dare say the Government will not need importation of military officers from outside or of having any number of staff increased in their Civil Supplies and other emergency departments if they trust the chosen sons of Bengal and allow them to handle the problems of today, the problems of supplies, the problem of relief and the problem of rehabilitation.

Sir, reports are coming of the failing health of any number of these political security prisoners. It is a painful thing to learn from day to day how many of our comrades and many of the best souls of Bengal are pining away slowly approaching the inevitable that all of us will some day reach. Sir, 3 days ago we got a report that one brilliant young man of Howrah who was being kept detained similarly without trial for any length of time has developed signs of insanity. I had also reports of any number of young men gradually fading away inside the prison bars suffering from various ailments. Some of these are detected in time and some not in time because some perverse medical men do not at first admit the existence of diseases though ultimately they have to accept the existence of diseases of that character when matters come to a head and probably it becomes too late to mend. Is it not time that even on grounds of health an examination can be made of the cases of those political security prisoners who, if for no other reason, for grounds of health could be considered safe enough to be released forthwith. Sir, I am not making a special pleading for releasing those who are sick. My demand is all pervasive and my demand is based on grounds of humanity, grounds of maintaining civil liberty, the very basis of democracy, the very basis of freedom.

Sir, we have got reports of a very large number of security prisoners who do not get sufficient family allowance provided for and the meagre family allowances given do not enable their dependents outside to manage even two square meals a day. What little mercy the Government could now show or extend is at least to permit their bread winners to come by their side and try in these difficult days to earn something and maintain their families and keep them alive. Death and destitution, diseases and epidemics stalk the land and it is hardly fair that Government should keep the bread winners back behind the prison walls and extend very meagre and niggardly family allowance and in many cases even that be denied. I do feel that there is not the slightest justification today, moral or political, for keeping any of these political prisoners behind the jail gates.

It is a pity that members on the Ministerial Benches or members supporting the Government do not realise day to day the pangs that are felt by persons behind the prisons. Every day, every hour, every minute of detention tells upon one's health, upon one's mental and physical capacities. We do not know what may happen to most of them when they are released. It may be that some of them would after prolonged detention be greatly changed men, but we know that in one respect they are having the fire of their soul kindled and rekindled and gold alone will come out untarnished, that is, their desire to win freedom for India, to win independence from British domination. The members of the Muslim League profess in their party meetings and in their annual conferences through resolutions and decisions their determination to stand by civil liberty and freedom of the people. Will not they at least in Bengal come out and make a practical demonstration of what they profess at such meetings? In the Punjab the Muslim League party has taken a lead in releasing certain categories of political prisoners. In the North West Frontier Province on the other hand, some members of the Muslim League again have tried to keep back a number of congressmen without trial in the fear that their release may lead to an end of their Ministry but there are Provinces where the political

situation is not viewed with such alarm and more courage is shown by the local officials and the Ministry concerned in tackling this question with courage and with greater determination. Will we require yet another set of conferences? Will it be necessary for the old Saint of Sabarmati to come to Bengal to beg of Sir Nazimuddin once more as he did once to apply his mind to this all important question of immediate and early release of political security prisoners and other political prisoners? Sir, I pause and ask Sir Nazimuddin if he would not care to remember the assurances held out by him in April, 1945, when just on the eve of assumption of his present office he gave an unqualified declaration to the leader of the Congress Party that whether the Congress helped them in the formation of the Ministry or not it was the unconditional offer of Sir Nazimuddin and those who were going to form the Ministry that they would see their way to facilitate an early release of the political prisoners and security prisoners. I do admit that no actual date was decided upon or held out, but surely from April, 1943, to February, 1945, it is a pretty long period to allow of this promise to work out.

Sir, the political prisoners of Midnapore deserve yet other special considerations. Midnapore has passed through tremendous agony. The political security prisoners of Midnapore and other political prisoners who on most flimsy grounds were clapped behind the prison bars by a set of panicky officials are now needed to serve the people in their travails to build up Midnapore and to rehabilitate Midnapore properly. Surely, it is time that Government should give that district a particular attention in view of the devastation caused there by man and nature. Sir, I would only conclude by making yet another appeal. The Government are now required under the provisions of the amended Ordinance to set up enquiries and to review periodically the cases of all political security prisoners. The manner in which such review is conducted leaves much room for doubt as to whether there is any genuine effort to examine the cases or not. The way in which answers are given, the manner in which the charges are communicated to the persons concerned in most general terms, just quoting the section and the outline of the particular relevant clause of the Defence of India Rules under which they are kept under detention make one feel that there is no charge, that Government dare not bring out any charge against the prisoners. It is merely stated that whereas so and so is considered to be involved in something of prejudicial character, whereas it is considered necessary by Government to detain him, order is passed and so on. There is no communication how and where, in what respect and in which particular connection the person concerned has been acting or was going to act in a prejudicial manner. Not the slightest evidence is produced, not the slightest ground is shown and not the slightest attempt is made to let the detainees know their crime. What more can the detainees be expected to do than keep quiet? In circumstances like this the only honest act of Government would be to set them at liberty forthwith and also the least the Government could do in regard to such other prisoners who have been detained under circumstances completely different from those prevailing today, namely, those who took part in connection with the political disturbances and movements—young boys, students and good workers who were just drawn into the disturbances or into the excited situation of which there is no more any fear on the part of the Government—would be forthwith to release them without the slightest danger to the community, so that these persons may serve and help in making a better Bengal, a freer Bengal and might co-operate in the making or rebuilding of the province in the manner in which we all want the province to be rebuilt, to take their proper share in the administration and a proper share in the whole picture of a different community which is bound to come in the near future.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: মাননীয় সহকারী স্পীকার মহোদয়, বাংলার রাজনীতিক নিরাপত্তা বন্দীদের অবিলম্বে মুক্তির দাবী করিয়া ডাঃ নলিনাক্ষ সান্যাল মহাশয় যে প্রস্তাব উত্থাপন করেছেন সেই প্রস্তাব সমর্থন করে আমি কিছু বলতে চাই।

এই পরিষদে আজকে বিশেষ করে, জনসাধারণের ভোটে নির্বাচিত পাড়াগাঁয়ের বহু মেম্বার উপস্থিত আছেন। আজকাল পাড়াগাঁয়ের জনসাধারণের ভিতর দেখা যায় যে, যিনিই ছয় আনা পয়সা চৌকিদারী টেক্স দিয়ে থাকেন তিনিই ভোটের অধিকার লাভ করেছেন। এই ভোটের অধিকার লাভ করার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে বর্ত্তমান পরিষদের সভ্য সংখ্যাও বেড়ে ২৫০এ দাঁড়িয়েছে। এই পরিষদে পূর্ব্বে যে নিয়ম ছিল, মনোনয়ন প্রথার, অর্থাৎ বড় বড় লোকেরা পশ্চাৎ দ্বার দিয়ে মনোনয়ন হতেন (laughter) সেটা এখন বন্ধ হয়ে গিয়েছে। এর মূলে রয়েছে বাংলার রাজনৈতিক আন্দোলন ও বহু দেশপ্রেমিকের আত্মবলিদান। বাংলায় তথা ভারতের যে স্বাধীনতার আন্দোলন, যে আন্দোলনের ফলে আজ বাংলার এবং ভারতের বহু লোককে নির্য্যাতন ও লাঞ্ছনা ভোগ করতে হচ্ছে। এই সমস্ত দেশপ্রেমিকদের জেল খাটার ফলে এবং ফাঁসিকাষ্ঠে ঝুলিয়া ও নির্বাসিত অবস্থায় প্রাণত্যাগ করার ফলেই আজ ভারতবাসী সামান্য একটু রাজনৈতিক ক্ষমতা লাভ করিয়াছে। তাহারই ফলে আজ বাংলার মন্ত্রিমণ্ডল ক্ষমতার অধিকারী হইয়াছেন। আজ যাঁরা এই অধিকার ভোগ করছেন তাঁদের মধ্যে দেখা যায়, বিশেষ করে, যাঁরা মন্ত্রীর গদীর মধ্যে বসে আছেন,--পাতার আড়ালে যখন সারা বাংলায় এই অধিকার পাবার জন্য তুমুল আন্দোলন সুরু হয় তখন তাঁরা গা ঢাকা দিয়ে বসেছিলেন, এবং বোধ হয় এই কথাই ভেবেছিলেন যে দেশের বহু লোক নির্য্যাতন ও লাঞ্ছনা ভোগ করবার পর যদি দেশের কোন উপকার হয়, বা শাসন ক্ষমতা হাতে পাবার সুযোগ হয়, তা তাঁরা গ্রহণ করবেন। ১৯০৫ সনে বাংলা দেশে প্রথম যখন বঙ্গ ব্যবচ্ছেদ আন্দোলন সুরু হয়, এবং এই স্বাধীনতা সংগ্রামের আন্দোলনে যাহাতে মুসলমানগণ যোগদান করিতে না পারে তদুদ্দেশে ১৯০৬ সনে ঢাকায় প্রথম মুসলিম লীগের জন্ম হয়, এবং ইংরাজ সাম্রাজ্যবাদীরাই এই মুসলিম লীগের জন্ম দিয়েছিল। আজ ইংরাজ সাম্রাজ্যবাদীরা মুসলিম লীগকে এমনভাবে চালাচ্ছেন যাতে ভারতের স্বাধীনতা সংগ্রামের ক্ষেত্র হতে মুসলমানগণ সরে থাকে। যাতে ইংরেজগণ এদেশে বহুকাল ধরিয়া রাজত্ব করতে পারে। ইংরাজ সাম্রাজ্যবাদ নিজ স্বার্থ রক্ষার উদ্দেশ্যে এখনও পর্য্যন্ত মুসলিম লীগকে সমর্থন ও পরিচালনা করছেন।

আমি বলতে চাই, বিশেষ করে, বর্ত্তমান সময় বাংলা দেশে যে কৃষক-প্রজাপার্টি আন্দোলন সুরু হয়েছে, যে আন্দোলনের ফলে বাংলার কৃষক তার শক্তি, তার সুযোগ-সুবিধা বুঝতে শিখছে, তারা ক্রমশঃ নিজের অধিকার লাভ করবার ক্ষমতা অর্জন করছে--সেই আন্দোলনকে গলা টিপে মারবার এবং সমূলে ধ্বংস করবার জন্য বাংলার মুসলিম লীগ মন্ত্রিমণ্ডল আপ্রাণ চেষ্টা করছেন। এবং আমি তার দৃষ্টান্তস্বরূপ বলছি এই কৃষক-প্রজা দলের খ্যাত-নামা সদস্য মৌঃ মনিরুজ্জমান ইস্‌লামাবাদীকে বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর ষড়যন্ত্রে এক্ষণে ভারত সরকারের আদেশে আটক রাখা হয়েছে। বাংলার মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী বলে থাকেন যে এই আটক তাঁরা করেন নি, ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্ট করেছেন। কিন্তু আমি একথা কখনও বিশ্বাস করতে পারি না। এই সমস্ত ষড়যন্ত্রের মূলে বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর হাত রয়েছে। আমাদের প্রবীন বৃদ্ধ বয়সের নেতাকে আজ এই রকমভাবে জেলে আবদ্ধ করে রাখা দুঃখ ও লজ্জার কথা। কংগ্রেস পার্টির পুরাতন নেতা মাননীয় শরৎচন্দ্র বসু মহাশয় ও তাঁর পুত্র এবং বাংলা দেশের আড়াই হাজার লোককে আজ বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট আটক ও জেলের মধ্যে আবদ্ধ করে রেখেছেন। সামান্য একটু মনুষ্যত্ব যার ভিতর আছে সে কখনও এই হীন নীতি সমর্থন করতে পারে না। এই যে বাংলার এতগুলি লোক, কেউ বা বিনা বিচারে আটক রয়েছেন, কেউ বা বিচারের অপেক্ষায় দিনের পর দিন জেলখানায় আবদ্ধ হয়ে তিলে তিলে মৃত্যুকে বরণ করে নিচ্ছেন। যাদের ত্যাগের বিনিময়ে যে শাসন ক্ষমতা ও অধিকার দেশে এসেছে তা ভোগ করছেন বর্ত্তমান মুসলিম লীগ মার্কা মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী। তাঁরা মোটা মোটা মাইনা নিচ্ছেন এবং নানাভাবে দেশের টাকা লুট করছেন আর দেশপ্রেমিকদের জেলখানায় আটক রেখে তাদের তিলে তিলে মারছেন। এ দৃশ্য কখনও কোন মানুষ দেখতে বা সহ্য করতে পারে না।

আবার একটা কথা মনে পড়ে--বাংলার তথাকথিত প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহোদয় এই মন্ত্রিত্বের গদি দখল করবার প্রাক্কালে প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়েছিলেন যে তিনি সমস্ত রাজনৈতিক বন্দীদের মুক্ত করবেন। এমন কি মাননীয় শরৎচন্দ্র বসু মহাশয়ের নাম পর্য্যন্ত উল্লেখ করে বলেছিলেন যে তাঁকে আটক বন্দী থেকে মুক্ত করে আনা হবে। বিগত মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর হাতে যখন ক্ষমতা ছিল তখন তিনি বিরোধী দলে থেকে এই সমস্ত ধরণের ছাটাই প্রস্তাব উথাপন করে তুমুল আন্দোলন করেছিলেন। তিনি দেশবাসীর দ্বারে দ্বারে ঘুরে বেড়িয়েছিলেন এবং বাংলার দুঃখ-দুর্দ্দশা দেখে চক্ষের জলে বাংলার মাটি ভিজিয়ে দিয়েছিলেন। তখন তিনি জনসাধারণকে প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়েছিলেন যে তাদের সমস্ত দুঃখ-দুর্দ্দশা তিনি দূর করবেন, এমন কি বাংলার লোককে সোনার থালে ভাত এবং রূপার গেলাসে পানি পর্য্যন্ত খাওয়াবেন।

মাননীয় সহকারী সভাপতি মহোদয়, আমি বলতে চাই যে বাংলার তথাকথিত লীগ-মার্কা মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী এই মন্ত্রিত্বের গদী লাভ করবার পূর্ব্বে বাংলার ভূতপূর্ব্ব লাট স্যার জন হার্বার্ট, প্রধান মন্ত্রী ফজলুল হকসাহেবের

নিকট হইতে পদত্যাগপত্র নিয়েছিলেন এই উদ্দেশ্য করে এবং মিথ্যা আশ্বাস দিয়ে যে, "বাংলা দেশে এখন দুঃসময় উপস্থিত, বাংলার জনসাধারণ এখন ভীষণ দুরবস্থার সম্মুখীন, অতএব এই সময় এখন একটা সর্বদলীয় মন্ত্রিসভা গঠন করা আবশ্যক। অতএব তুমি এখন পদত্যাগ করো; তোমার আবার প্রধান মন্ত্রিত্বের আসনে বসান হবে।" এই কথায় বিশ্বাস করে ফজলুল হক সাহেব পদত্যাগ পত্রে স্বাক্ষর করে দিয়েছিল। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় তাঁকে না ডেকে, ডাকা হ'ল স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিনকে এই নূতন মন্ত্রিসভা গঠন কার্য্যে। তখন এই নূতন মন্ত্রিত্ব গঠন করবার নিমিত্ত স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন অনেক হিন্দু নেতার দ্বারে দ্বারে ঘুরে বেড়িয়েছিলেন। কিন্তু ডাক্তার শ্যামাপ্রসাদ মুখার্জি, সত্যেন্দ্রকুমার বসু প্রভৃতি নেতাদের নিকট হইতে নিরাশ হয়ে স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন যে নীতি অবলম্বন করিল, সে বিষয়ে আমার মনে হয় একটি কবিতা—

হতভাগ্য বাংলার, উজিরে আজম, ঢাকার উপখাজা স্যার নাজিম।
শ্যামার চরণে হইয়া বঞ্চিত,
তুলসী চরণ করিলা সার।
তারক নাথের তারকেশ্বরে, পিণ্ডি দিতে গিয়ে,
পেয়ে বরলাবে, মন্ত্রিত্বের গদি পেলা উপহার।

এই ভাবে মন্ত্রিত্বের গদি লাভ করে আজ তাঁরা বসে আছেন।

এই প্রসঙ্গে আমি একথাও বলা প্রয়োজন মনে করি। সেদিন বাজেট বক্তৃতায় অর্থসচিব মহাশয় বলেছেন যে, বর্ত্তমান বাংলা দেশকে পুনর্গঠন করবার জন্য তিনি ষাটটি বাজেট উপস্থিত করেছেন। এই বাজেটের দিকে দৃষ্টি দিলেই দেখতে পাওয়া যায়, কি চমৎকার সুন্দর পুনর্গঠনের পরিকল্পনা করেছেন। প্রথমেই দেখা যায় যে প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের বাসভবন মেরামত ও সুসজ্জিত করবার জন্য ৪০ হাজার টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Maulvi Sahib, how do you connect the budget with the release of political prisoners? Come to the point.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, আপনি এই সমস্ত অপ্রাসঙ্গিক কথার উল্লেখ করতে নিষেধ করছেন, কিন্তু এই প্রস্তাব সমর্থনে যে সমস্ত কথা সামনে এসে পড়ে সেগুলি না বললে সমস্ত বিষয় পরিষ্কার করে বলা যায় না। সেই জন্য এইগুলি বলা প্রয়োজন। আজ যাঁরা জেলখানায় আবদ্ধ আছেন, যাঁরা জেল খাটতে খাটতে প্রাণত্যাগ করে চলে গিয়েছেন, যাঁরা দেশের স্বাধীনতা অর্জন করবার জন্য ফাঁসিকাষ্ঠে ঝুলছেন, এবং যাঁদের ত্যাগের বিনিময়ে আজ বাংলা দেশ শাসন ক্ষমতা পেয়েছে, সেই অধিকার যাঁরা ভোগ করছেন তাঁরা কিরূপ অকৃতজ্ঞতার কাজ করছেন সেগুলি প্রমাণ করবার জন্য এই সমস্ত কথা বলার প্রয়োজন হয়েছে।

আজ তাঁরা আড়াই-হাজার, তিন হাজার টাকা মাইনে নিচ্ছেন। স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিনের বাড়ী মেরামত ও সুসজ্জিত করবার জন্য ৪০ হাজার টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে। বাংলার দরিদ্র জনসাধারণের রক্ত নিংড়ান যে টাকা সেই টাকা থেকে প্রধান মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের বাসভবনের জন্য ৪০ হাজার টাকা এবারকার বাজেটে বরাদ্দ করা হয়েছে—একথা জোর গলায় বলা দরকার। এবং আরও দেখা যাচ্ছে যে পার্লামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারীদের মাইনা পূর্ব্ব অপেক্ষা বহুগুণে বৃদ্ধি করা হয়েছে এবং মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর অন্যান্য সাঙ্গোপাঙ্গকে টাকা দিয়া এবং নানাভাবে সাহায্য করিবার ব্যবস্থা করা হয়েছে। এই সকল হচ্ছে বাংলার লীগ মার্কা মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর কার্য্যকলাপ। কাজেই আমি বলবো তাঁরা এই যে অধিকার ও ক্ষমতা হাতে পেয়ে, তার অপব্যবহার করছেন এর জন্য তাঁদের একদিন বাংলার জনসাধারণের কাছে জবাবদিহি করতে হবে।

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, আমি আরও বলতে চাই যে বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিসভা স্বাধীনতাকামী লোকদের প্রতি কি রকম নির্ম্মম ব্যবহার করে আসছেন। কতকগুলি লোককে জেলখানায় পুরে রেখেছেন আর কতকগুলি লোকের পিছনে C. I. D. পুলিশ লাগিয়ে রেখেছেন, এবং তাঁদের দরকারমত, সময় অনুযায়ী এঁদের জেলখানায় পাঠিয়ে দিচ্ছেন। আমি জোর গলায় বলতে পারি বাংলার যে কৃষক-প্রজা আন্দোলন চলেছে সেই কৃষক-প্রজা আন্দোলনকে ধ্বংস করবার জন্য বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডল আপ্রাণ চেষ্টা করে আসছেন। তার কারণ, তাঁরা জানেন, এই কৃষক-প্রজা আন্দোলনের প্রধান উদ্দেশ্য হ'ল জমিদারী প্রথাকে ধ্বংস করা ও সঙ্গে সঙ্গে বাংলা দেশে কৃষক-প্রজা গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্রতিষ্ঠা করা। এই উদ্দেশ্য নিয়ে যে আন্দোলন চলেছে, তাকে ধ্বংস করবার জন্য বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিসভা যেরকমভাবে ষড়যন্ত্র করে কার্য্য-কলাপ আরম্ভ করেছেন সেটা আমি প্রমাণ করতে চাই।

(At this stage there was Red Light.)

মাননীয় সভাপতি মহোদয়, আমার এখনও সব বলা শেষ হয়নি, আমাকে আরও কিছু সময় দিতে হবে।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order.

The House stands adjourned till 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 6-45 p.m. till 10 a.m. on Saturday, the 24th February, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Saturday, th 24th February, 1945, at 10 a.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (MR. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, Hon'ble Ministers and 145 members.

Want of Quorum.

(The attention of the Deputy Speaker being drawn by Mr. P. Baner that there was no quorum, a count was taken by Secretary, and as it wa then found that there was actually no quorum, the House was adjourne for 10 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Filing and disposal of debt settlement appeal cases from March, 1943, t October, 1944, in the Court of Subdivisional Officer, Tangail.

*67. **Mr. AMRITA LAL MONDAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister i charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many debt settlement appeal cases were filed and how man of them were disposed of by the Subdivisional Officer, Tangail from March, 1943, to October, 1944, month by month;

(*b*) how many appeal cases fixed for hearing had been adjourned by th Subdivisional Officer without any petition for adjournment by th parties;

(*c*) what steps Government propose to take to save the public agains expenses on account of adjournment of cases by the Subdivisiona Officer;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the Subdivisional Officer, Tangail, doe not attend the court regularly; and

(*e*) whether it is a fact that the District Magistrate, Mymensingh, passe on one occasion a stricture on the Subdivisional Officer, Tangail for not disposing of those cases regularly?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaj Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*)(*i*) One hundred and eighty-two cases were filed.

(*ii*) One hundred and fifty-one cases were disposed of.

(*b*) One hundred and fifty-seven cases were adjourned without petitio from the parties.

(*c*) Government do not propose at present to take steps in the matte as the officer had to spend most of his time during the said period in connection with Famine relief operations, quinine distribution and other multifarious relief works.

(*d*) and (*e*) No.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that many of the cases had been adjourned when the Subdivisional Officer was out on tour from the station for duty and many other cases were adjourned without petition from the parties?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in the midst of his multifarious work, it was not possible for the Subdivisional Officer to try his level best to do what was humanly possible to dispose of those cases?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot say that, but this much I can say that this matter relates to a period when Bengal was in the grip of famine and extra burden was put on the Subdivisional Officer in connection with famine relief operations, gruel kitchens, distribution of gratuitous relief, Red Cross work and other work consequent on the famine, and, therefore, there was some adjournment, because the Subdivisional Officer had to tour throughout the subdivision.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Tangail is one of the biggest subdivisions, if not the biggest, of the Province where it is impossible for one Subdivisional Officer to manage?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: In normal years it has been possible for one Subdivisional Officer to continue. But this relates to a period when there was famine in Bengal and a lot of work had to be put on the Subdivisional Officer which, in normal years, is not necessary.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if these arrears have been cleared up by this time?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer just now given will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is desirable to depute somebody else than the Subdivisional Officer for the speedy disposal of the cases in order to prevent harassment on the part of the litigants and lawyers?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There has been no such complaint in the past. It relates only to a certain period when some cases had to be adjourned, and I have already explained that the Subdivisional Officer had to remain out on tour in connection with famine relief work.

Prohibition of Durga Puja in Sandwip Kalibari in Noakhali district.

***68. Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that *Durga Puja* was this year prohibited in the Sandwip Kalibari in Noakhali district by the local Magistrate;

(*ii*) that the order was served on the night previous to the day of the worship, when preliminary ceremonies for the worship, namely, *Bodhan* had already been performed; and

(*iii*) that a previous agreement existed between local Hindus and Muslims regarding taking out immersion processions from the Kalibari ground?

(*b*) If the reply to (*a*)(*iii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what were the terms of the agreement; and

(*ii*) whether this agreement was further ratified by the District Magistrate in October, 1943, with slight modifications regarding hours of prayer?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) if the order of the Magistrate in prohibiting the worship was contrary to the existing agreement;

(*ii*) whether any of the Parliamentary Secretaries of the Government was present at Sandwip at the time the order was issued; and

(*iii*) whether the Hon'ble Minister is considering the desirability of taking action against the Magistrate for his violation of the agreement?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*)(*i*) Yes. The prohibitory order was passed, however, not by the local Magistrate but by another Magistrate deputed from Sadar to prevent a communal fracas.

(*ii*) The order was served on the evening previous to the first day of worship but before the consecration of the image by way of *Bodhan* ceremony and in fact, while the painting was still in progress.

(*iii*) A previous agreement existed regarding the taking out immersion processions but not from the Kalibari ground.

(*b*)(*i*) The terms of the agreement provide for three Hindu religious processions, viz., the *Dolejatra*, the *Rathajatra* and the *Durga Puja* processions being taken every year past the local Jumma Mosque with music except during the specific hours of the five daily prayers of the Muslims and also certain additional hours on the days of Muslim festivals.

(*ii*) Yes. But in addition to the slight modification regarding hours of prayer, another important modification was made, requiring the Hindus to make the image at some place to the south of the mosque as in the previous years and not at the Kalibari.

(*c*)(*i*) No.

(*ii*) I have no information that any Parliamentary Secretary was present.

(*iii*) Does not arise.

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to let us know the text of the agreement where the Hindus agreed that they will not hold any Durga Puja at Kalibari?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It is not possible for me to give the text of the agreement now.

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that the Hindus never entered into any agreement to the effect that they will not hold the worship of the Goddess Durga at Kalibari?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That question is not to the point. The question is that there was an agreement between the two communities regarding the passing of processions with music and about the place where the image will be constructed. In the year when this dispute arose, the local Hindus wanted to construct it at a place where in previous years it was not done.

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there was any prohibitory order from the Subdivisional Officer, Noakhali, prohibiting not the construction of the image, but prohibiting the worship of Goddess Durga?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. The whole dispute arose over the construction.

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to refer to the order promulgated by the Subdivisional Officer under section 144, Cr. P. C., where it is stated that as such worship with music and beat of drums is likely to wound the religious feeling of the local Muslims offering prayer at Jumma mosque close by, this order is passed, and so on and so forth?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, the question of worship does not arise, if there is no construction.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in the order the question of worship has been raised and not the question of construction? The construction was fully done and it was an order prohibiting the Hindus from offering their worship?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is not correct.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the prohibitory order related to the worship, as such, or to the ceremonies including the immersion ceremony and processions following the worship?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. There was no prohibition of worship. It was an order applying only to the construction.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Construction of what?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Of the image.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the prohibitory order was directed to stop the construction or the making of an image and whether it was expected that the puja will be conducted without an image?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There was no prohibition so far as the construction was concerned. It relates only to the construction of the image at a particular place.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that the order clearly states "Whereas it is made to appear to me that you and a number of other persons who are members of the Sarvajanin Durga Puja Committee and Kalibari Committee are about to meet and perform the worship of the Goddess Durga within the local Kalibari". That is the preamble of the order, and there was no mention made of prohibition of construction of the image. This was an order passed upon the worship of the Goddess Durga and not anything else.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have not got the copy of the order before me. But as the honourable member has himself mentioned, that is only a preamble of the order.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Let me then read the whole thing and it will be clear to you. The order runs thus "Whereas it is made to appear to me that you and a number of other persons who are members of the Sarvajanin Durga Puja Committee and Kalibari Committee are about to meet and perform the worship of the Goddess Durga within the local Kalibari premises at Harishpur town, police-station Sandwip, and that such worship with music and beating of drums is likely to wound the religious feeling of the local Muslims offering prayers at the Jumma mosque, and that such worship in the aforesaid place having no tradition in the past is likely to lead to disturbances and breach of public tranquillity or to riot, I do hereby prohibit Durga Puja being performed in the aforesaid premises and strictly warn and enjoin you not to take any part in such worship thereon."

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That relates to a particular spot over which there was a dispute and which was a deviation from the past custom and practice and also infringement of the agreement that was arrived at during Mr. Bastin's time.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: As regards the agreement, I challenge the Government that there was no such agreement and Government can never produce such an agreement. It is a false statement made before the House but the order clearly states——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please put your question.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: I am explaining first, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Explanation is not necessary.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the actual terms of the agreement, if any, the existence of which is denied by Mr. Das Gupta in his question?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I would refer the honourable member to my reply (*b*)(*i*) where the main terms of the agreement are given.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in those main terms stated therein there is any alleged agreement or anything in that agreement covering the place or the method of worship at that place about which the prohibitive order is issued?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: If the honourable member will see, he will understand that indirectly there is.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: How?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The mutual agreement related to the passing of three religious processions which were in practice in previous years and this is the order when the trouble arose that there was going to be a departure from the usual practice and custom.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That only related to the hours.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain, as the agreement related to the procession, why the performance of the puja was prohibited?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The performance of the puja or worship was not prohibited.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Just now you stated that the worship was prohibited at a particular spot. Why?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: In so far as there was going to be a deviation from the mutual agreement arrived at between the two communities, there was a likelihood of the breach of peace. Therefore Government had to see that the agreement arrived at between the two communities was honoured by both the communities.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: The agreement related to the procession. Will the Hon'ble Minister please explain why the performance of the puja was prohibited?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The agreement related to the procession and other performances too.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for issuing the prohibitive order for holding up the puja? Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to further state what was the dispute about?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The dispute was with regard to the place where the image was to be constructed, which was situated within a distance of 50 yards from the mosque.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Do we take it that the Government policy is to prevent the Hindus to worship the Goddess in their property because of the fact that it is very near to another Muslim house or Muslim quarters?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There has been so far no such interference as the honourable member assumes. But in this particular case I would refer the honourable member to my reply (*b*)(*i*). There was during the time of Mr. Bastin an agreement between the two communities.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is all humbug. It has been proved absolutely to be nonsense. Don't repeat the same nonsense over and over again.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: It is nothing but nonsense.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Please be fair, straight and honest.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the fact that the Hindus wanted to worship at any premises in which they had not worshipped before entitles the Government to interfere and put a ban upon it?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The same insinuation has been made by Dr. Sanyal saying that it is nonsense. Unless that is withdrawn, I am not going to answer.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: It is irreligious, it is rascalism and it is anything of that kind. The Government which interferes with the religious rights of the community does not deserve any support. It deserves to be kicked out and nothing else.

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: Do it if you can.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: You will see that it will be done in time.

Mr. A. M. ABDUL HAMID: You can never do it.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Please allow me to put one question.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: He refuses to reply to questions.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: On a point of order, Sir. Some members might have used some abusive or insulting language. (Dr. NALINAKSNYA SANYAL: No insulting language was used.) Supposing for argument's sake, some member used some abusive language. What about others who did not take part in it?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEKER: You can put your question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Parliamentary Secretary please state whether it is the policy of Goverment to encourage agreements in restriction of the right of the Hindus to perform *pujas* anywhere they like or any number of times they like?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is not the Government's intention. But if there is an agreement between the parties, certainly Government would like that agreement to be honoured. So far as the allegations that have been made are concerned, I would like to say that the report of a non-Muslim officer is to the effect that the Muslims are insisting on a strict compliance with the letter of the agreement made during Mr. Bastin's time while the Hindus are taking a stand which indicated that they were more anxious to vindicate their supposed right to hold all kinds of religious ceremonies at the Kalibari than to perform any *puja* or in other words they were actuated more by communal considerations than religious worship.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who were the parties to this agreement and whether the entire Hindu community of the locality or, for the matter of that, the entire province, is bound by that agreement?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Mr. R. W. Bastin, District Magistrate of Noakhali, noted the agreement? The agreement was dated 19th May, 1937. The order of the District Magistrate, Mr. M. H. Ali, dated 27th October, 1940, did conform to that. He however modified the same by pointing out that the hours of prayer would be ascertained from the *Police Gazette*. This is the extract from a letter from Mr. R. W. Bastin, dated 2nd March, 1944. The processions are allowed to pass between the hours 2-30 p.m. and 4 p.m.—one from the south to north along the main road ceasing music within 50 yards of the mosque and will be by the Kutcherri road to the east of the criminal court. The Hindus did not take out a procession as a protest against this unwarranted order and no Hindu could agree with that rascal Magistrate who passed an order to that effect.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not the proper form to put a question. Put it in a proper form.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Is it a fact that what I have just now stated is true?

(No answer.)

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Sir, I demand an answer from the Government member.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Honourable members know very well that it is not the business of the Chair to compel Government members to answer to a question. For all practical purposes I cannot compel Government members to answer to it.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Government have the goodness or the courtesy or the good manners to state whether even after the *Bodhan* ceremony the *puja* ceremonies of Hindu deities go on till the next day?

(No answer.)

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: On a point of order, Sir. If the Minister or his Parliamentary Secretary refuse to answer questions in this way I should like to know whether it is desirable that the House should waste its time in allowing members to ask questions.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: I submit that in the present circumstances the Chair can refuse to preside.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But that is for the Chair to decide.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if the Government side, especially the Home and Chief Minister, adopts this conduct towards the House insulting to the representatives of the people, I submit to you that this matter be referred to the Privilege Committee, and unless and until a decision is taken we refuse to take part in questions and we shall make it impossible to bring in any budget.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Questions over.

GOVERNMENT BUSINESS.

Financial Business.

Supplementary Estimates for 1944-45.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, I beg to present before the House the supplementary statement of expenditure for the current year. The total covered by the estimates is Rs. 65,73,34,400 out of which Rs. 33,10,200 is charged and the balance is voted. (When the Hon'ble Minister was presenting the estimates there was noise and table-thumping from the Opposition benches.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. May I invite your attention to the relevant section relating to supplementary statements of expenditure—section 81 of the Government of India Act, I presume—that the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra Goswami, the Finance Minister, was seeking your permission to place before the House now the supplementary estimates relating to the current year. We find from a printed statement handed over to us that these supplementary estimates cover an amount of Rs. 65,40,24,000. Compared to the ordinary expenditure of the province in the current year this amount appears to be something which can by no stretch of imagination be thought possible to be spent during the period from now on, that is, from the 24th February till the end of the current year, the 31st March, 1945. The language of that section 81 is that "if in respect of any financial year further expenditure from the revenues of the province" "becomes"——not became "necessary" but "becomes necessary", it is a positive futurity—"necessary over and above the expenditure theretofore authorised for that year, the Governor shall cause"—it is obligatory on the Governor to cause it—"to be laid before the Chamber or Chambers a supplementary statement showing the estimated amount of that expenditure"—not the amount already spent but what is to be spent in future, the estimated amount of that expenditure which is to come and not an amount which has already been incurred—"and the provisions of the preceding sections shall have effect in relation to that statement and that expenditure as they have effect in relation to the annual financial statement" and the expenditure mentioned therein. From the total amount noted herein, and I would of course await the explanation, if any, sought to be given by the Finance Department, I am inclined to think that the bulk of this expenditure must have already been incurred and the additional expenditure is sought to be covered by the supplementary demand. But, Sir, for this class of additional expenditure there is a provision under the Act under which under section 169 the Audit Report is to be submitted to the Public Accounts Committee and for such amounts as are found to be excess amounts spent during the year a regularising vote has surely to be taken by way of excess grants to be passed by a vote of the Assembly. The Public Accounts Committee will have to be convinced, item by item, as to the justification or otherwise of such excess expenditure and the House cannot be taken by surprise. There is a Public Accounts Committee set up by the House to go into the justification or otherwise of each item of such additional expenditure if already incurred. This supplementary statement covered by section 81 only entitles Government to come to the House at an early stage when the expenditure has not been incurred. If the expenditure or any part of it has been incurred then it must come under the provision of the Audit Report and the Public Accounts Committee's examination or scrutiny and the excess expenditure must be regularised by the House. This procedure therefore of coming to the House at a late stage in the year is irregular and *ultra vires* and cannot further be allowed by you, Sir. I submit further that so far as the current year is concerned another complication has been created due to the fact that we are in possession of the Budget Estimates for 1945-46 the general discussion on which has already been on the way. 1945-46 Budget Estimates presented to us include actuals of 1943-44 and the revised estimates of 1944-45. Either these present supplementary estimates are included in the revised estimates or not. If they are so included the Government cannot come to the House once more for having a further amount to be voted because it is already before the House——

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: You cannot have a cut motion on the revised estimate.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The revised is there and the rules of the Assembly clearly state that you cannot anticipate any matter already in possession of the House by another motion. What will happen to the Budget cut motions or to the debate in relation to the Budget which the House is already in possession of if any of the items now presented is not acceptable

to the House or is modified. I think therefore this is an additional ground for my point of order that the presentation of the supplementary estimates is *ultra vires*. Further, Sir, there is a third reason. We find that so far as this House is concerned, the House has been treated with scant respect in regard to heavy expenditure which this House alone is entitled to vote. These expenses have been administratively or on executive authority planned out or sanctioned in the past. The Government of the day feel that at any time they can come to the House and take the members by the ear and as the Government Party members are like so many meek lambs, they can get them to vote for anything they bring. It may be so with regard to the Government Party members for they do not care what amount Government spend throughout the year provided their own emoluments are kept intact, but, so far as we are concerned, we cannot allow such encroachment on the privileges of this House which alone is competent to vote demands when in fact these expenses have been incurred and they have been already irregular. An irregular and illegal act cannot be sought to be regularised by this kind of post-mortem presentation of budget estimates which are no longer estimates but which relate to amounts already spent.

On these three grounds, I submit, Sir, that the present supplementary demand of expenditure is *ultra vires* and should be ruled out by you.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: So far as I remember, Dr. Sanyal, you raised a similar point of order last year.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But no ruling was given—you promised to give a ruling.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Or Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri raised a similar point of order. So far as I remember, you are correct that I did not give any decision. I left it to the Speaker to give his decision but I allowed the Hon'ble Finance Minister to present the estimates. Later on, so far as I remember, I gave my personal opinion regarding that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No ruling was given.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No ruling was given. Similarly, on this occasion——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We have been having the same thing repeated every year, Sir. Why should you not have the courage to give us a ruling?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: One thing strikes me very much. Assuming that your argument is correct but you can do so by refusing these things by vote.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We cannot—this is a point of order—because the vote will be by the method of taking members by the ear.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Anyway, Dr. Sanyal, as I did on the last occasion, I allow the Hon'ble Minister to present the estimates. You can ask Mr. Speaker to give his ruling on this matter.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Then the mischief will be completed.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: May I explain? Last February when I presented the budget for 1944-45, I clearly indicated that Bengal had been placed in a situation in which a large rehabilitation programme would have to be undertaken. We could not estimate the amounts that would be spent. In fact——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is this amount spent already or not?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: A part of it must have been spent.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: A substantial part of it.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: It is impossible for me to say how much has already been spent. May I proceed with my explanation?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Can you give us an analysis of what part has been spent and what has not been?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: That is an impossibility. Year after year the supplementary budget is placed before the House about this time of the year.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Not to this extent.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: As regards the extent of the expenditure, honourable members will bear in mind the extraordinary situation in which we have been placed. Otherwise, the supplementary estimates would never reach anything like this colossal figure. It was clearly indicated about this time last year that large financial outlay would have to be made for the purpose of rehabilitation.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: A separate session ought to have been called for it. Is Publicity expenditure an emergency expenditure for rehabilitation?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let him explain.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, I explored the possibilities of presenting the supplementary budget in the November-December session, but I found it impossible to present the estimates before the House at that time. It was an impossibility.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: A sad admission of incompetence!

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Not at all, Sir, it was in the nature of things an impossibility. After all, the only alternative course that might have been adopted was to ask for block grant. That, Sir, would have been more unfair to the House, because here, at any rate, you have proper estimates, otherwise, as you have in other Legislatures a system of block grants for emergency expenditure, that shuts out a discussion of the various items and I think it is fairer to the House that proper estimates should be presented before the House. It is true some of the amounts have been spent, but it was impossible to present proper estimates to this House before this time.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Get the Act amended if that is so.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: I do not think section 31 of the Government of India Act stands in our way at all. May I, Sir, proceed with my statement?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: On a point of privilege, Sir. I have not got the answer to the point of privilege I raised just now. As the Government Party, specially the Chief Minister of Bengal, dishonoured and showed disrespect to the representatives of the people, I submit that this matter be referred to the Privileges Committee to decide whether the House has the right to get answers from the Government. I have not got answer to this.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Roy, you know very well that the Assembly Procedure Rules give you sufficient protection against any grievance that you have. I could have given you this privilege if you asked my permission to move an adjournment motion if Government refused to answer any question. I could have considered that. You could have brought a

no-confidence motion against the whole Ministry. I could have considered that motion. Anyway, as you suggest that this matter should be referred to the Privileges Committee, let me consider the whole thing. Let me see the proceedings and I will give my answer next day when I will be here.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, as I was saying——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, are you permitting the Hon'ble Minister to go on?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I at this stage submit that in view of the very large number of grants covered by the proposed motion for supplementary estimates, the House do consider the necessity of either extending the day's session so that sufficient and reasonable time may be allowed to the Opposition to debate on these grants or the Government be pleased to allot at least 7 days' time for moving votes and cut motions on these demands. It is not possible to vote or examine Rs. 65,40,00,000 covering 38 grants in the course of one day, as is proposed to be done. This is entirely in your hands, Sir. Even without disturbing the Government programme, you can demand that there should be whole-night sittings.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Can I give you my suggestion? You know very well how things are arranged. You consult with the Chief Whip of the Government and then you come to me and I will listen to both.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Let us have whole-night sittings.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In the meantime, you can consult with the Chief Whip of the Government and other whips and find out some *via media* to the suggestion. In the meantime, let the Hon'ble Minister proceed.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, as I was saying, a demand of close upon Rs. 49 crores included in these estimates relates to transactions outside the revenue account and is due to larger outlay on procurement and allied operations booked under the Capital head "85—A". In the Budget for the current year it was assumed that sale proceeds of foodgrains and other commodities would exceed the outlay on fresh procurement by 17 crores. According to current plans, however, outlay on procurement operations is expected to be some 29 crores higher than the receipts from the sale proceeds of stocks. This means an excess of 46 crores over the original estimates. The remainder of the demand under "85—A" is due to an extensive programme of boat construction which has been undertaken with a view to facilitate movement of supplies.

Among the items included in the Revenue Section of the Supplementary Estimates, by far the largest, amounting to close upon 10 crores, occurs under the head "63—Extraordinary charges". About 8½ crores out of this is due to a higher estimate of loss on the sale of subsidised food. Against the original budget provision of 5 crores for this item, the revised estimate stands at 13½ crores. This, however, includes 5 crores 89 lakhs on account of loss incurred in 1943-44 but not adjusted in the accounts of that year. There are three other factors responsible for the increased demand under "63—Extraordinary charges", namely, (1) reorganisation of the Department of Civil Supplies, (2) acquisition and maintenance of a fleet of transport lorries, and (3) expansion of the organisation under the Controller of Rationing.

The estimate of additional expenditure under "54—Famine" stands at about a crore and 70 lakhs. The increase is due partly to the fact that special measures for the medical relief of sick destitutes had to be continued throughout the year instead of for six months as originally anticipated; and partly to various additional measures of gratuitous relief for which no provision

had been included in the Budget. These comprise such items as the opening of cheap grain shops in distressed areas and free distribution of cloth and blankets to indigent persons.

Under "Public Health" the total supplementary demand comes up to a crore and 16 lakhs. Out of this, 73 lakhs is accounted for by the purchase of mepacrine tablets for free distribution and for sale to the public. The balance is due to continuance throughout the year of the various measures for combating epidemics of malaria, small-pox and cholera.

The supplementary estimate under "40—Agriculture" stands at very nearly a crore. About half of this is due to additional schemes of seed distribution under the "Grow More Food Campaign"; 23 lakhs is accounted for by the scheme for the compilation of crop-statistics by a plot to plot survey which was taken up after the budget had been passed. Other items responsible for the increase include the entertainment of experts on poultry breeding, dairy farming and animal nutrition schemes and the expansion of the Department of Agricultural Development.

An extra demand for 60 lakhs under "37—Education" is necessitated mainly by a post-budget decision to grant dearness allowance to teachers in non-Government Primary and Secondary Schools, including Madrasahs, who have been hard hit by the high cost of living.

Under "43—Industries", the supplementary estimate is of the order of 41 lakhs. This is required for giving effect to a scheme of relief to small artisans and craftsmen by the distribution of raw materials, tools and implements on suitable terms.

A large part of the additional demand of 37½ lakhs under "25—General Administration" is due to enhancement of rates of dearness allowance with effect from 1st July, 1944; but there are other contributory items such as the reorganisation of the Publicity Department (5 lakhs), the re-excavation of derelict irrigation tanks under the Rehabilitation Scheme (5½ lakhs) and enhancement of the emoluments of the members of the Legislature (2½ lakhs).

Under "29—Police" the bulk of the supplementary demand of 28¾ lakhs is due to enhancement of rates of dearness allowance, while new construction of buildings and roads accounts for the major part of the increase of 24¾ lakhs under "50—Civil Works".

I need not trouble honourable members with a recital of the reasons for the demands under the remaining heads which are comparatively small. I may remind them that in my budget speech, a few days ago, I explained all the circumstances necessitating this great increase in expenditure.

The reasons for all the demands presented to the House have been set out in the Explanatory Memorandum and will be gone into more fully by the Minister concerned as each demand is moved.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I submit one thing before you adjourn, Sir? We have just had a suggestion from the Chief Whip of Government and on consultation with the Opposition this side we are agreeable to the suggestion that the general discussion of the supplementary demands may be taken up on the 1st March instead of on the 6th March as now notified, and 6th, 7th and 8th March may thus be reserved for voting on supplementary demands for grants. (Mr. FAZLUR RAHAMAN: Provided the Assembly finishes the Embankment Bill on the 28th February.) It will be done; we do not feel much difficulty that way, although we do not give any undertaking or promise, provided Government do not propose to bring in any other business than the Embankment Bill on the 28th February. In that case, on the 28th February, we will have one small Bill only and it is hoped that it will be finished that day.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: I take it that on the 28th February we will have the Embankment Bill. On the 1st March we will have business remaining from 28th February and the second item, general discussion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is all right.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 10-58 a.m. till 4 p.m. on Tuesday, the 27th February, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 27th February, 1945, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 13 Hon'ble Ministers and 173 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Grant of family allowances to some security prisoners.

*69. **Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether any family allowance has been granted to the following security prisoners:—

(*i*) Sj. Anil Kumar Roy, M.A., B.L.
(*ii*) Sj. Pramatha Nath Banerjee, ex-M.L.C. (Midnapore Jail);
(*iii*) Sj. Nripati Bhusan Chatterji (Midnapore Jail);
(*iv*) Sj. Kulada Chakravarty (Midnapore Jail);
(*v*) Sj. Biswa Nath Mukherji (Presidency Jail);
(*vi*) Sj. Makhan Lal Sen (Presidency Jail);
(*vii*) Sj. Amar Gopal Nandi, M.A. (Presidency Jail);
(*viii*) Sj. Nirmal Kumar Roy, M.A. (Dum Dum Central Jail);
(*ix*) Sj. Sukumar Chakravarty (Rajshahi Jail);
(*x*) Sj. Upendra Nath Choudhury (Dum Dum Central Jail);
(*xi*) Sj. Radha Gobinda Sarkar (Presidency Jail);
(*xii*) Sj. Debendra Nath Guha (Presidency Jail);
(*xiii*) Sj. Manmatha Chakravartty (Rajshahi Jail);
(*xiv*) Sj. Kshemesh Ranjan Chatterji, M.SC., B.L. (Rajshahi Jail);
(*xv*) Sj. Satish Chandra Biswas (Presidency Jail);
(*xvi*) Sj. Gouranga Das (Faridpur Jail);
(*xvii*) Sj. Bhupendra Bhattacharjya (Faridpur Jail); and
(*xviii*) Sj. Hemanta Kumar Bose (Dum Dum Central Jail)?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the amounts granted to each of them?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) when each of the abovenamed prisoners were detained;
(*ii*) when did they apply for family allowance;
(*iii*) whether any enquiry was made in respect of their allowance;
(*iv*) if so, with what result;
(*v*) the number of the dependants to each of the abovenamed security prisoners; and
(*vi*) whether any attempt was made to ascertain their—
(1) income while they were at large,
(2) debt if any incurred by their families after their detention, and
(3) the amount that may be necessary for the maintenance of their family?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Yes, excepting the security prisoners mentioned in (*ii*), (*iv*), (*v*), (*x*), (*xi*), (*xiii*), (*xiv*), and (*xv*).

(*b*), (*c*), (*d*) (*i*) and (*iv*) A statement is laid on the Library Table.

(*ii*) and (*v*) The information asked for is not readily available and its compilation would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in war time.

(*iii*) and (*vi*) Yes.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the income that Babu Anil Kumar Roy, M.A., B.L., was earning before his arrest?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice. He has been granted a family allowance.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer given to question (*d*)(*vi*) that attempt was made to ascertain their income while they were at large and about the debt, if any, and the amount required for the maintenance of their family, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the income of Sj. Anil Kumar Roy, Sj. Pramatha Nath Banerjee, Sj. Nripati Bhusan Chatterji and all others named in the question (*a*)(*i*) to (*xvii*)?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That information is not with me here and now. So I am unable to answer this question unless notice is given.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the amount of time and labour that will be necessary for compiling the information?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: What is the Government's opinion?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot give any opinion offhand.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any allowance has been granted to Sj. Pramatha Nath Banerjee?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. There has been no financial loss to the family and as such no family allowance has been granted to this security prisoner, but his case is being re-examined.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the allowance that has been granted to Sj. Anil Kumar Roy, Sj. Nripati Bhusan Chatterji, Sj. Makhan Lal Sen, Sj. Amar Gopal Nandi, Sj. Nirmal Kumar Roy, Sj. Sukumar Chakravarty and Sj. Bhupendra Bhattacharyya?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Anil Kumar Roy has been granted a family allowance of Rs. 20 per month; Nripati Bhusan Chatterji had been granted a family allowance of Rs. 15 per month which has been enhanced to Rs. 30; Biswa Nath Mukherji—he is a bachelor and his father is self-supporting, so he has not been granted any allowance; Makhan Lal Sen has been granted an allowance of Rs. 60 per month; Amar Gopal Nandi has been granted an allowance of Rs. 30 per month; Nirmal Kumar Roy was granted Rs. 10 per month which was first raised to Rs. 20 and now has been raised to Rs. 30 per month; Sukumar Chakravarty has been granted an allowance of Rs. 15 per month; the question of enhancement of his allowance is under consideration; Upendra Nath Chaudhuri has been granted no allowance as he is unmarried and the family has got landed property; Radha Gobinda Sarkar has no wife or children to maintain and he has three earning brothers.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of dependents of Sj. Anil Kumar Roy, Sj. Nripati Bhusan Chatterji, Sj. Makhan Lal Sen, Sj. Amar Gopal Nandi, Sj. Nirmal Kumar Roy, Sj. Sukumar Chakravarty and Sj. Bhupendra Bhattacharyya?

Mr. SPEAKER: You are putting too many questions together. Please put one after another.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of dependents of Sj. Anil Kumar Roy, M.A., B.L., to maintain?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: What is the number of dependents of Sj. Nripati Bhusan Chatterji?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the allowance of Rs. 15 was granted to Sj. Nripati Bhusan Chatterji and when it was enhanced to Rs. 30?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will it be possible for the Hon'ble Minister to state whether the allowance was granted from the date of his arrest?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That also, I am afraid, I am unable to state.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: From the answers just given by the Hon'ble Minister do we understand him to say that an unmarried man can have no dependents?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is again a matter of opinion.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Sj. Parimal Kumar Roy, M.A., brother of Sj. Nirmal Kumar Roy, is also in detention and that they have to maintain their old father, two minor brothers and one sister?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have no information at present with me about the brother of Nirmal Kumar Roy. This prisoner was granted an allowance of Rs. 10 which was first enhanced to Rs. 20 and then it has been enhanced to Rs. 30 per month.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the information that has been furnished to him, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how it is possible to maintain five dependents with Rs. 30?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of dependents of Sj. Gouranga Das who is in Faridpur Jail and has been granted an allowance of Rs. 15 only?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Sj. Bhupendra Bhattacharjya who was lodged in the Faridpur Jail was the sole earning member and his family depended solely on his earning and he has been granted only Rs. 10 per month?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid, to the first part I will have to ask for notice, but the honourable member is not correct when he says that the prisoner was granted Rs. 10. He was originally granted Rs. 10 but it has since then been raised to Rs. 20 per month.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the basis on which this Rs. 10 was granted first which was enhanced to Rs. 20 afterwards?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot state the basis on which it was first granted but according to the liberal policy adopted by this Ministry after they came into office—in pursuance of the policy which was announced by Government—the allowance was doubled, that is to say, raised by 100 per cent.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when Government expect to decide the question of granting allowances to Pramatha Nath Banerjee, Hemanta Kumar Bose and Kshemesh Ranjan Chatterji, M.SC., B.L.?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: So far as Pramatha Nath Banerjee is concerned, a report is being awaited from the District Magistrate and the question will be re-examined after the report has been received. The case of Hemanta Kumar Bose is also under consideration and no allowance has been granted to him as he has no wife or child to maintain. So, his case was rejected, but on a fresh petition being received, his case is being re-examined.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: In view of the answer just now given, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how he said that there was no financial loss to Pramatha Nath Banerjee by his detention?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Because he was not contributing anything towards the maintenance of the family before his arrest.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how was it ascertained that he did not earn anything before his detention?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That transpired as a result of enquiries conducted by Government.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he had to maintain his wife and three or four young children by his own income before his detention?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government's information was otherwise, but no fresh materials being submitted to Government, Government have asked the District Magistrate to report again and that report is being awaited.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he thinks it desirable to consider the case and revise the position?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already stated that fresh enquiries have been set afoot and Government are awaiting the result of the enquiries.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when do Government expect to complete this investigation and actually grant them allowance?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is more than what I can say when it will be completed but the matter will be expedited.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the hardship caused to their families, do Government think it desirable to expedite the enquiry and grant any allowance if they so choose?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already stated that Government will expedite the matter.

Grant of adequate family allowance to certain security ~~prisoners~~.

*70. **Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that either no family allowance or very inadequate family allowance has been given to the following security prisoners, viz.—

(*i*) Mr. Rajendra Nath Roy, security prisoner, Presidency Jail, dependents 12, father old and invalid, no other earning member in his family; before arrest was working in the Inspectorate of Scientific Stores, 5, Council House Street, Calcutta, and earning over Rs.150 per month;

(*ii*) Mr. Sadhan Roy, security prisoner, Presidency Jail, dependent old father, grand-mother and mother, mother's eyes need operation immediately but cannot be arranged for want of means, property mortgaged;

(*iii*) Mr. Arun Roy, security prisoner, Presidency Jail, dependents 5, father ill, two unmarried sisters and younger brother, their education seriously hampered;

(*iv*) Mr. Anil Majumdar, security prisoner, Presidency Jail, father was a railway contractor, died recently, dependents 4;

(*v*) Mr. Rohini Chakravarty, security prisoner, Presidency Jail, dependents 6, used to earn over Rs.50 per month;

(*vi*) Mr. Satyendra Chakravarty, security prisoner, Presidency Jail (formerly Dacca Jail), dependents 6, no earning member in the family;

(*vii*) Mr. Mukunda Bhanja, security prisoner, Dacca Jail, allowance of Rs.20 granted which is inadequate to support 5 dependents; and

(*viii*) Mr. Krishna Chandra Chatterjee, security prisoner, Presidency Jail, inadequate allowance?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of reviewing their cases and stating the result thereof in the Assembly?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Security prisoners Babu Rajendra Nath Roy, Sadhan Roy and Satyendra Chakravarty, mentioned in items (*i*), (*ii*) and (*vi*) respectively were not granted any family allowance.

Security prisoners Babu Arun Roy, Mukunda Bhanja and Krishna Chandra Chatterjee mentioned in items (*iii*), (*vii*) and (*viii*) have been granted family allowance of Rs.30, Rs.20 and Rs.15, respectively.

Security prisoner Babu Rohini Chakravarty is now detained under orders of the Government of India under Ordinance IV of 1944.

There is no security prisoner of the name of Babu Anil Majumdar.

(*b*) No.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of dependents that Mr. Krishna Chandra Chatterjee has to maintain?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: This prisoner, before his arrest, was earning some amount which could not be ascertained exactly, from private tuition out of which he used to help the family financially with about Rs. 10 per month.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I want the number of dependants and on what basis you have granted Rs. 15.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid I am unable to answer that question without notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether these Rs. 30, Rs. 20 and Rs. 15 granted to Arun Roy, Mukunda Bhanja and Krishna Chandra Chatterjee respectively were granted from the date of their arrest?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is it a fact that some of the political prisoners have been granted maintenance from the date of their arrest?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I can answer with regard to the first prisoner. Arun Roy was granted family allowance with effect from the date of his arrest which was 16th February, 1943.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is it a fact that some of the security prisoners have been granted allowance from the date of arrest and others have not been granted from the date of arrest?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, that is correct.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That depended upon the merit of each case.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: When they were granted allowance for detention and for loss of income due to detention, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason for making discrimination between security prisoners and security prisoners who lost their income for the reason of their detention?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government's policy in this connection has been announced several times and has been explained on the floor of the House. So far as Arun Roy is concerned, I might explain that this security prisoner's allowance was granted to his father purely on compassionate grounds because his family consisted of 5 members and its monthly income was about Rs. 30 per month. Though the prisoner was not an earning member of the family before his arrest, an allowance of Rs. 30 per month was granted to his father with effect from the date of his arrest purely on compassionate grounds.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to revise all the cases in which allowance has not been granted from the date of arrest of the particular prisoner concerned and grant allowance in their cases from the date of their arrest?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is too big a question. It does not, strictly speaking, arise out of it. If he pleases to answer, he can do so.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir, no such hard and fast principle can be accepted by Government and the Government policy has been explained to the House several times and I might draw the attention of the honourable member that the case of Arun Roy is an instance in view. This prisoner, though he was not an earning member, was granted the full amount which was necessary to maintain the family on compassionate grounds and though there has been no financial loss to the family by the arrest and detention of the prisoner, yet because the family was suffering and was in hardship, Government came to the help of the family.

Distribution of textile goods in Calcutta and mufassil areas.

*71. **Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(a) the quantities in bales of different classes of textiles brought under the disposal of Provincial Textile Controller during September and October, 1944;

(*b*) the quantity of each category of such textile distributed up to date respectively in the City of Calcutta and for each of the subdivisions and of different districts of Bengal out of the above stock;

(*c*) the principle followed in arranging the distributions and in the selection of distributing agents or retailers (*i*) in Calcutta and (*ii*) in mufassil;

(*d*) the dates when, the names and addresses of the parties to whom and the quantities of cloth for which permits were issued from the office of the Provincial Textile Controller; and

(*e*) the principles, if any, followed in the selection of such parties and in the allocations of quotas of supply to each of them in (*i*) Calcutta and (*ii*) in the mufassil?

MINISTER in charge of the CIVIL SUPPLIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) The total figures are as follows:—

		Bales.
September	...	7,555
October	...	8,722
Total	...	16,277

Details regarding different classes of textiles do not admit of easy compilation, since there are very many varieties of cloth manufactured in India, which come into Bengal.

(*b*) Details regarding category of textiles distributed are not also readily available. Total quantities distributed are as follows:—

		Bales.
Quantity distributed in Calcutta	...	3,107
Quantity allotted to Assam	...	1,350
Quantity released on various grounds	...	848
Quantity de-frozen for general distribution	...	2,912
Quantity distributed in mufassil	...	6,420
Stock in hand on October, 1944	...	1,640
Total	...	16,277

(*c*) In Calcutta, a non-official panel comprising various interests, selected the retailers on a zonal basis, and the distribution was arranged through retailers according to the requirements of a particular zone. In the mufassil the distribution was made through representative dealers selected by the Subdivisional Officers.

(*d*) Number of permits issued were as follows:—

	Calcutta.	Mufassil.	Total.
September, 1944 ..	827	306	....
October, 1944 ..	367	1,937	
	1,194	2,243	3,437

It will thus be seen that the detailed information required will involve enormous clerical labour and time.

(*e*) *Vide* reply to (*c*).

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to the answer under (*a*) regarding the figures of total bales distributed through Provincial Textile Controller in September and October, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if these are the bales frozen and taken physical possession of by the Textile Commissioner's office or they were left with the respective wholesalers to be handed over to particular parties on the authority of permits issued by the Textile Commissioner's office?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The second alternative; they were frozen and left in the custody of the owners.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if, at the time of the freezing of the stock, the quality and quantity of the stock so frozen are taken note of and was any record kept thereof in the office of the Provincial Textile Controller?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: So far as I am aware, the persons who were importing from outside had to submit the railway receipts with a copy of their invoices to the office of the Provincial Textile Controller. The railway receipts were endorsed in order to enable them to remove the goods from the railway and a copy of the invoice was maintained as evidence of what stock had been frozen.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in consultation with the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department a scheme was drawn up to classify the goods under three main categories of fine, medium and coarse with sub-classifications thereof mainly under three classes, dhotis, saries and miscellaneous to be maintained under broad classifications for purposes of distribution?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I do not think that there was any time to make classifications of that kind, but what actually took place was that the non-official experts who were charged with the duty of making out permits were asked to distribute the bales to the various people in certain proportion, fine medium and coarse. They were expected to know by looking at the number of bales and the marks as to which were fine, which were coarse and which were medium and then to distribute the bales equitably.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that before launching on the requisition and distribution of requisitioned stocks it was agreed to in his presence by the Provincial Textile Controller that the goods so requisitioned would be distributed in proportion of about 25 per cent. for Calcutta and suburban areas and 75 per cent. or so for the mufassal areas as far as movements permitted?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: That was generally what was understood.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what stood in the way of his distributing the total stock of 16,277 bales to enable the mufassal of Bengal to receive its due share of 75 per cent. or near about out of that total?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The position is, as the honourable member will see, that less than 25 per cent. was distributed in Calcutta. A certain amount was allotted to Assam. The goods that were released on various grounds may be ignored. The quantity defrozen for general distribution might have, well, come to Calcutta or gone to the mufassal; they might have been distributed in either of these places and double the quantity distributed in Calcutta was sent to the mufassal. This category also was not up to date as 1,640 bales were stock in hand and probably they were all sent to the mufassal.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what principle, if any, was followed in defreezing those bales mentioned in the 2,912 bales, that is to say, roughly the equal amount was defrozen as was distributed in Calcutta? What was the principle adopted for permitting certain categories of businessmen to enable them to freely sell without the intervention of the department?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: This defreezing did not apply to certain categories of businessmen; it applied to all persons in whose hands stocks remained which had not been distributed by permits. I do not think that the honourable member should create any point out of that as on the last occasion it was made out that the distribution was being held up because large amount of stocks were lying frozen. That is why there was defreezing.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that there has been a good amount of complaint regarding abuse and corruption by big quota holders and merchants who managed to get their requisitioned stock defrozen through influence and through other questionable methods?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I do not think that would apply to defreezing of stocks. That might apply to release of stock as a certain amount of discretion would be required for that. Stocks were defrozen on a particular date in respect of all stocks which had not been disposed of on another date. For instance, if I remember aright somewhere about 10th October all stocks not disposed of by the 26th September were defrozen in one sweep.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that the statement made by him regarding defreezing on a particular day does not apply to October stock as is evident from the stock in hand in October mentioned about 1,600 bales?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is an argumentative question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Who were the members of the panel representing various interests and how were they selected or nominated?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I do not know the names of the members but they were selected or nominated by the Provincial Textile Controller himself from amongst the representatives of various organisations.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What textile organisation did Mr. Osman, Secretary, Calcutta Muslim League, represent and whether he was one of the nominees or members interfering with the selection of shops or allotment of cloth?

Mr. SPEAKER: This is a double or triple question. Please put your questions one after another.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He has just now said that members were selected from amongst——

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your question?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what interests did Mr. Osman, Secretary, Calcutta Muslim League, represent——

Mr. SPEAKER: Was he a member?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: You first ask that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Mr. Osman was one of the persons dealing with the selection and allotment of cloth?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I do not think that Mr. Osman dealt with allotment of cloth, but he certainly, so far as I am aware, looked into allotment, but he had not sufficient knowledge to be able to allot cloth.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what textile interest does he represent?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: He represents the interests of the consumers.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who selected him for this work?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I did.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: How could the Hon'ble Minister reconcile the present answer with his previous answer that the Provincial Textile Controller selected the members?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not allow that question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that complaints were made and brought to his notice that this Mr. Osman under his authority was interfering with the selection of shops as well as in the allotment of fine varieties cloth to certain categories of dealers and was doing it in a manner which led to various kinds of suggestions?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Certain frivolous complaints based on communal grounds were placed before me. I looked into the matter and found that what Mr. Osman was doing was that he was seeing that due regard was paid to Muslim interests.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that it was at the request of this Mr. Osman that Messrs. Kalishahai Jagannath—surely that is not a Muslim firm—got several bales of best varieties of cloth?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I have no knowledge of that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that it was at the request of this Mr. Osman that a number of Hindu shops of Grant Street and the New Market were entered surreptitiously in the list of approved shops prepared at a conference where all persons were present excluding Mr. Osman?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: This is a wholly unfounded allegation.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what interest does Mr. Makhan Lal Banerjee of the Hindu Mahasabha represent in helping the distribution of cloth?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I do not know. Mr. Makhan Lal Banerjee of the Hindu Mahasabha must have been selected by the Provincial Textile Controller.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that at the time of Id and Puja some non-officials representing different interests like the Muslim League, the Hindu Mahasabha and the Congress were selected to help the distribution in the Textile Controller's office?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I tried my best to see that every one interested was taken in.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why though he issued a statement on the 24th September, 1944, in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* to the effect that "We are also sending cloth to mufassal through traders recommended by the Subdivisional Officer at the rate of 50 bales for each subdivision as a first step. We have, however, reserved much larger quantities for the mufassal areas and shall allot them as and when *bona fide* dealers from the mufassal recommended by the District

Magistrate or the Subdivisional Officer come to us for supplies", the Provincial Textile Controller did not issue them cloth though they came with recommendations from the Subdivisional Officers but asked them again to come as nominees of the Subdivisional Officer for the second allotment in his letter No. 7193(cy.), dated the 11th October, 1944?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I do not understand what the honourable member is driving at. There was not sufficient cloth here to distribute to every single person recommended by the Subdivisional Officers. The Subdivisional Officers not only nominated the persons who were to receive 50 bales of cloth but recommended nearly all the traders of the various subdivisions because they were most anxious to get as much cloth as possible. It was not possible to give cloth to every person recommended and therefore the Subdivisional Officers were asked to send in their nominees.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the meaning in issuing a statement that any businessman, coming from mufassal with the recommendation of the Subdivisional Officer will get an allotment?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not allow that question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if one Radha Kissen Agarwala, B.com., B.L., of Dinajpur, was allotted 40 bales of cloth though he was neither nominated nor recommended by the Subdivisional Officer of Dinajpur Sadar?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I have not the slightest idea.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that it was decided by Government to select 500 shops or near about for the Calcutta area for distribution and only 150 shops were ultimately selected? This was announced in the *Hindusthan Standard*——

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not necessary. The question is enough.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why was not a larger number selected?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Is the honourable member referring to 150 shops? I do not know what was intended or what was done?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if his attention has been invited to the statement published in the press on the 20th December, 1944, wherein it was stated that under the emergency cloth distribution scheme which is now being operated by Government in collaboration with the Provincial Textile Control Advisory Committee it has been arranged that 500 retail shops would be selected in Calcutta for a fair distribution in all parts of the city and accumulated piece-goods would be released to the consumers through these shops? Has this statement made by the Provincial Textile Control Advisory Committee been supported by or known to the Hon'ble Minister?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: The Provincial Textile Controller does not always consult the Hon'ble Minister when he issues a statement. When he gave the figure as 500 apparently he must have at the moment intended to set up 500 shops. Probably he could not choose 500 shops that he could supervise over and therefore considered that 150 shops were a good number that he could supervise or perhaps he had also reduced the number of shops because there was not sufficient stock in hand.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it not a fact that at every stage of the *Id-Puja* emergency distribution the details and the working and also the scheme were done in consultation with the Hon'ble Minister in charge personally and he himself supervised and instructed the Department as to what should be done or what should not be done?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I did not intend that every detail should be placed before me but I certainly did initiate it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With regard to the answer that in the mufassal distribution was to be made to representative dealers selected by the Subdivisional Officer, was any instruction given to them as to the class of dealers, the quality of such dealers and the extent of business of such dealers or any other principle to be followed by the Subdivisional Officer in effecting their selection?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, Sir, I do not remember.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that in the subdivision of Brahmanbaria no consumer in the mufassal is allowed to purchase a single piece of cloth without a chit from the Circle Officer and as a result a person living at a great distance has to go to the subdivisional town to purchase a single piece of cloth because no representative dealer has been appointed for the mufassal areas?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: That might be so. There must be a rule framed by the local authority to try and allocate the cloth.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state that the Subdivisional Officer of Kushtia selected a number of local dealers who were never in the trade before including Hindus and also allowed a near relation of his from Pabna district, village Shahazadpur, to obtain on his authority a number of bales from Kushtia to be taken away by river to Pabna from out of the stock made available to him?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I am not aware of that.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the arrangement under contemplation for distributing cloth in mufassal in future?

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not arise out of this question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the records referred to in answer (*d*) of the permits issued to dealers from the Textile Controller's office are still available and may be inspected?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I have no reason to think otherwise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that this Babu Radha Kissen Agarwala who was allotted about 40 bales of cloth, though he had no recommendation or nomination from the Sadar Subdivisional Officer disposed of the majority of the bales of cloth allotted for sale in Dinajpur district in Calcutta?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: As I am not aware of the existence of Radha Kissen Agarwala how can I answer the question?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that in allotting bales of cloth to different dealers, some were given only coarse cloth but others were given the majority of fine cloth in consideration of something paid to the officers?

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot say in consideration of something paid to officers. You can only put your question but you cannot make any insinuation.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I would be prepared to say that every one did not get cloth of exactly the same variety or in the same proportion.

Babu RADHA NATH DAS: When there is a famine of cloth in Bengal why is it that from the Bengal quota Assam has been supplied with cloth?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Assam has not been supplied from the Bengal quota. Cloth that came to Bengal at that time also included the quota for Assam.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that in connection with the distribution of cloth to Calcutta dealers a specific complaint was made, written out and handed over to the Provincial Textile Controller with the knowledge thereof communicated to the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Civil Supplies personally by the questioner that a shop supposed to have a direct connection with an Inspector of Civil Supplies had surreptitiously obtained three good bales of fine variety of cloth while the others were getting very poor quality of cloth?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, I do not remember it at this distance of time because I have had to do quite a lot of work since then.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What action has the Hon'ble Minister taken on the reference made on the floor of the House here in December last followed thereafter by a written note handed over to him regarding the Beniapukur Cloth Store in connection with which one Mr. Swami, an Inspector of the Department, is involved and who got definitely three bales of fine sarees regarding which complaints were handed over in the presence of his Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. K. Nasarullah, to the Hon'ble Minister?

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, you cannot put such a long question. It is almost a speech.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I want to know what action has been taken on the complaint made on the floor of the House regarding this shop?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Now I remember that something was told about the Beniapukur Cloth Store and I must have enquired into the matter.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What is the result?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I do not know.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether some dealers who had been allotted cloth for sale in mufassal districts sold it here in Calcutta and that some got only fine cloth and other coarse cloth?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no question. Will you resume your seat?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to look into the records of the Provincial Textile Controller's office and hold an enquiry into this matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: No, Sir, I cannot. What the honourable member says is well known to me and under the stress of distribution in that period of time in which we had to rely upon non-official gentlemen in the trade I do not think that it is possible for us to go back on that and make an enquiry.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if their scheme of allotment for the districts has no method in it?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a hypothetical question and I do not allow it.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government have selected any representative dealer or any cloth dealer in Dinajpur for distribution of cloth there?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: I do not know.

Food position in Bengal.

*72. **Khan Bahadur ABDUL WAHAB KHAN:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether statistics collected in respect of the food position of the Province is up to date;

(*b*) the total requirements of the district showing thana by thana of each subdivision and the population of each thana; and

(*c*) the names of the thanas which are considered to be surplus or deficit?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) A statement is laid on the Library Table. Classification of thanas as surplus or deficit areas is approximate, and is subject to revision in the light of fuller knowledge and better statistics.

Khan Bahadur ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the agency through which the statistics were collected belongs to the Civil Supplies Department or the Agriculture Department?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: It was done by the Statistical Department.

Khan Bahadur ABDUL WAHAB KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how the deficits are proposed to be made up?

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: An estimate is taken of consumption by the people on per capita basis and also of production and accordingly an estimate is made either of a deficit or of a surplus.

Amount spent for improvement and construction of roads in Mymensingh district.

*73. **Maharaja BHUPENDRA CHANDRA SINGHA, of Susang:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state the amount spent—

(A) during the last six years; and

(B) during the last three years, for—

(*i*) the improvement, and

(*ii*) new constructions of roads in—

(*a*) the district of Mymensingh, and

(*b*) partially excluded areas in the district of Mymensingh?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prasanna Pain): (A) (*i*)(*a*) Rs. 21,65,582.

(B) (*i*) (*a*) Rs.11,22,532.

(A) (*ii*) (*a*), (B) (*ii*) (*a*), (A) (*i*) (*b*), (A) (*ii*) (*b*), (B) (*i*) (*b*) and (B) (*ii*) (*b*) Nil.

The figures in respect of the works executed by the Communications and Works Department do not include the amounts spent on their own roads by the District Board of Mymensingh and other local bodies in the district, as those figures are not easily available in this Department.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no amount has been spent either during the last three years or during the previous six years on either improvement or on new construction for any roads in the partially excluded areas in the Mymensingh district?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: Because it was not within the Irrigation Department or the Communication and Works Department.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that all expenditure on road construction and maintenance, whether they be under the Provincial Government's direct jurisdiction or under excluded areas wherein the Governor's personal responsibility comes in, has to be arranged through the Provincial Communications and Works Department whether voted or charged, in the case of provincial responsibility they are shown as voted, and in the case of Governor's own discretionary responsibility as charged to be executed by the Communications and Works Department?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: I do not follow your question. Will you please repeat it?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Are you aware that——

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a question of fact.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The answer he has given shows that he does not know anything.

Mr. SPEAKER: He may not know anything. It is not a question of knowledge.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Are the partially excluded areas in the Mymensingh district not in any way the concern of the Communications and Works Department of the Provincial Government?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of opinion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if he is aware that in the district board of Mymensingh's allotment also the partially excluded areas in the district of Mymensingh have not received proper attention?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: I am not aware of that.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the roads in the district of Mymensingh for which this amount has been spent?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: I want notice.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the portion from Kalihati to Tangail, a part of the Tangail-Mymensingh road has been yet incomplete?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: I am not aware of that.

Maharaja BHUPENDRA CHANDRA SINGHA, of Susang: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the district board road from Jharia to Birisiri, a distance of 8 miles, can be immediately brought under the Public Works Department for effecting improvement, this being the only road connecting the headquarters of the partially excluded areas with the nearest railway station?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: I am not aware of it. (Laughter.)

Want of accommodation for Second Munsif, Dinajpur.

***74. Mrs. HEMAPROVA MAJUMDAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether he is aware that the house occupied by the Second Munsif of Dinajpur was not available on hire to his successor Munsif who came on transfer; and

(*ii*) whether the owner of the house on being offered a much higher rent by the Sale Tax Office refused to let his house on hire to the Second Munsif who came there on transfer?

(*b*) If the reply to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government propose to take for accommodating Government officers who came on transfer to Dinajpur?

(*c*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that the rent of the house in question was Rs.50 only up to October, 1942, and then raised to Rs.60;

(*ii*) that the Sale Tax Office has offered Rs.85 for the same house; and

(*iii*) that Sale Tax Office was occupying a house on a less rental?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken against the department for such enhanced offer of rental in disobedience to the Rent Control Order?

MINISTER in charge of the JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruff Hossain, Khan Bahadur): (*a*)(*i*) The house was not available till the 11th July, 1944, when it was let out to the successor Munsif.

(*ii*) When the house was vacated, the landlord approached the Commercial Tax Officer and proposed to let it out to that department.

(*b*) and (*d*) Do not arise.

(*c*)(*i*) and (*iii*) Yes.

(*ii*) No.

Allowance of peon of Sub-Inspectors of Schools.

***75. Mr. ABDUL JABBAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that no provision has yet been made for the office allowance and for the orderly peon for the Sub-Inspectors of Schools?

(*b*) Do Government contemplate to provide the Sub-Inspectors of Schools with an office and a peon?

(*c*) If so, when?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Not before the termination of the war.

(*c*) Does not arise.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Number of attacks and deaths from cholera and smallpox in Rangpur district and steps taken against the situation.

21. Mr. PUSPAJIT BARMA: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) what had been the annual figures in respect of attacks from cholera and deaths from it during the years 1942 and 1943 in the district of Rangpur;

(*b*) how many persons were inoculated with anti-cholera vaccine during the years 1942 and 1943 in the said district;

(*c*) how many persons were appointed for this purpose during the years 1942 and 1943—

(A) by the Government, and

(B) by the District Board of Rangpur;

(*d*) what is the total population of the district;

(*e*) what had been the annual figures of smallpox cases and deaths from it during the years 1942 and 1943 in the district;

(*f*) how many persons were vaccinated during the years 1942 and 1943 in the said district; and

(*g*) how many persons were appointed for this purpose—

(A) by the Government, and

(B) by the District Board of Rangpur?

MINISTER in charge of the PUBLIC HEALTH and LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) The figures are as follows:—

	Attacks.	Deaths.
1942	... 2,186	1,538
1943	.. 13,526	8,312

(*b*) 141,658 persons were inoculated in 1942 and 373,720 in 1943.

(*c*) (A) Ten doctors were appointed at Government expense for anti-epidemic work in the district in 1942 and 3 Subdivisional Health Officers, 12 Medical Officers and 14 Sanitary Assistants during 1943.

(B) Four Medical Officers and 91 temporary Health Assistants were appointed by the District Board for inoculation work during the year 1943 and none during the preceding year.

(*d*) Population of the district is 2,877,847 according to the Census of 1941.

(*e*) The figures are as follows:—

	Attacks.	Deaths.
1942	 229	94
1943	... 2,263	706

(*f*) 304,566 persons were vaccinated in 1942 and 257,817 in 1943.

(*g*) (A) As at (*c*) (A) above.

(B) 159 vaccinators were appointed by the District Board during 1942 and 427 during 1943.

Delimitation of constituencies of the District Board of Tippera.

22. Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) when the election of the District Board of Tippera was due;

(*b*) when the election of the District Board of Tippera will be held;

(*c*) what is the reason of the election of District Board of Tippera not taking place after it has been due;

(*d*) whether the constituencies for the District Board of Tippera have been delimited;

(*e*) when the suggestions for the delimitation of constituencies were called for;

(*f*) whether the suggestions have been received from the District Magistrate of Tippera, from the Chairman of District Board and from the members of Legislature;

(*g*) if so, when were they received;

(*h*) whether the suggestions have been accepted; and

(*i*) if not, why the constituencies have not been delimited so long?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: (*a*) Towards the end of the year 1941-42.

(*b*) Towards the end of the year 1945-46.

(*c*) Time required for the delimitation of constituencies for direct election after abolition of Local Boards.

(*d*) Yes: notification has been published.

(*e*) On the 26th October, 1940.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) In September, 1942.

(*h*) The local officers' and the District Board's recommendations were accepted in substance with minor modifications.

(*i*) Does not arise.

Increase of family allowance of Babu Amiya Nath Roy, now lodged in the Dum Dum Central Jail.

23. Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that Babu Amiya Nath Roy of Tangail, Mymensingh, at present lodged in the Dum Dum Central Jail, has sent several petitions to the Government praying for increment of his family allowance;

(*ii*) that before his arrest he was practising as a Muktear in the Tangail Court and earning not less than Rs.100 per month;

(*iii*) that he was the sole earning member of his family consisting of about 12 members, all completely dependent on his income; and

(*iv*) that he has been granted Rs.23 only per month as family allowance?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*i*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether his petition has been granted; and if not, the reason therefor?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) My information is that as a Mukhtear he was earning about Rs.30 per month.

(*iii*) No. Only his wife and daughter were dependent on him.

(*a*) (*iv*) and (*b*) An allowance of Rs.15 per month was first granted to the prisoner which was enhanced to Rs.23 per month under the latest liberal policy of Government and this has been further enhanced to Rs.30 per month with effect from the 1st December, 1944.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if he is aware that the questioner Babu Khagendra Nath Das Gupta, a member of this Assembly, is lying seriously ill of typhoid at Rajshahi Central Jail now and this is about the 20th day of his illness?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not a supplementary question. It does not arise out of the question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is a very serious matter.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another matter. You may make a statement after question hour.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when this allowance was granted—whether from the date of arrest or from any later date?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: First the security prisoner was given an allowance, as I have said, of Rs. 15 which was raised to Rs. 23, and then from December, 1944, he is getting an allowance of Rs. 30. I cannot give the date from which this allowance is being granted.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that he has to maintain 12 members, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to further raise the allowance so that a suitable allowance for the maintenance of 12 members may be available to his family?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He has not got 12 members. His family is a joint one consisting of 7 members of whom only his wife and a little daughter are his direct dependents. Besides this the family gets a regular monthly contribution of Rs. 120 per month from a brother who is a Munsif.

Appointments in Jagat Kishore Destitute Home and Hindu Orphanage of Kishoreganj.

24. Rai Sahib MONOMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state the number of appointments that have been made for the Kishoreganj Jagat Kishore Destitute Home and the Kishoreganj Hindu Orphanage, showing separately the number of them that are—

(*i*) Caste Hindus,

(*ii*) Scheduled Castes, and

(*iii*) Muslims.

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea): The information is furnished below—

	Caste Hindus.	Scheduled Castes.	Muslims.
Kishoreganj Jagat Kishore Destitute Home	..	1	9
Kishoreganj Hindu Orphanage ..	1	7	..

(Further supplementaries to *178A held over from 19th December, 1944.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, this question relates to the lady assistants and officers of offices of Controller of Rationing, Calcutta, and in the presence of my leader and others the Chief Minister did promise in the Assembly that he would be prepared to hold a conference in camera in his room or elsewhere to enquire into these allegations and if found true he would take necessary steps. May I now enquire once more before the supplementaries are asked if Government even at this late hour are prepared to act up to that assurance. If they do, I will not proceed with the supplementaries.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: If the Hon'ble Chief Minister has given assurance he will certainly carry it out if it is brought to his notice.

Mr. SPEAKER: It stands over now.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: All right, Sir.

STARRED QUESTION

(to which oral answer was given)

Allowance to the families of security prisoners.

***76. Babu JNANENDRA CHANDRA MAJUMDAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether security prisoners Babus Manash Gobinda Sen, Kalidas Chakravarty, Sachindra Mohan Lahiri, Biresh Chandra Chakravarty, Bibhuti Bhusan Bhattacharya, Radha Raman Bhattacharya,

Tarak Nath Das and Hemanta Kumar Nag, all belonging to Rajshahi district, have applied to the Government for the grant of family allowances;

(*ii*) whether the security prisoners referred to in (*a*)(*i*) were the sole earning members of their families;

(*iii*) whether each of the security prisoners Babus Manash Gobinda Sen, Kalidas Chakravarty, Sachindra Mohan Lahiri and Biresh Chandra Chakravarty used to earn about Rs.100 per month; and

(*iv*) whether security prisoners Babus Bibhuti Bhusan Bhattacharya, Radha Raman Bhattacharya, Tarak Nath Das and Hemanta Kumar Nag were earning not less than Rs.60 per month each?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*i*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any action has been taken on those petitions?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of adopting the "liberal policy" as stated in the Government's Press Note issued in November, 1942, in these cases?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of granting family alowances to the abovementioned security prisoners?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*)(*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Babu Bibhuti Bhusan Bhattacharya is not a security prisoner but a restrictee and report about his family circumstances from local officers is being awaited. Babus Manash Gobinda Sen, Radharaman Bhattacharya and Tarak Nath Das were sole earning members of their family while the others were not.

(*iii*) Yes, only the first three. Biresh Babu had an income of Rs.30 only.

(*iv*) Yes, excepting Babu Tarak Nath Das whose earning did not exceed Rs.45 only per month and Babu Bibhuti Bhusan Bhattacharya who is not a security prisoner and the report about whom is still being awaited from local officers.

(*b*) and (*d*) Family allowances have been sanctioned in all the cases excepting the case of Babu Bhibhuti Bhusan Bhattacharya which is now under consideration.

(*c*) The policy as stated in the *Government's Press Note issued in November, 1942*, is being followed.

(*e*) Does not arise.

(Mr. Charu Chandra Roy rose to put supplementary question on *76.)

Mr. SPEAKER: No more supplementaries now. The time is over. Supplementaries may be asked next day.

The House stands adjourned for 15 minutes for prayer.

(The House was at this stage adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Enquiry regarding the health of a security prisoner.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, may I take this opportunity before the business of the House has begun to make an enquiry through you of the condition of the security prisoner, Sj. Khagendra Nath Das Gupta, a member of this House, who is reported to have been lying seriously ill in the Rajshahi Central Jail? It is reported that he is suffering from typhoid and this is the 20th day of his ailment, and we are all anxious to know what the position is.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Khan Bahadur, can you give some information?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir. The security prisoner Khagendra Nath Das Gupta is suffering from enteric fever. He has been transferred to the Sadar Hospital at Rajshahi, and, as a special concession, his wife has been permitted by Government—orders are being issued to that effect—to interview the security prisoner daily in the hospital. He is suffering from fever, and as regards his condition, it is not possible to say whether his condition is critical, grave or serious.

General Discussions on the Budget.

Srijut ASHUTOSH MULLICK : মিঃ ডেপুটী স্পীকার, স্যার! সেদিন বস্ত্রাভাব সমস্যার জরুরী মুলতুবী প্রস্তাবের আলোচনা, বাজেট সমালোচনার স্থান বেদখল করায় আমার বক্তব্যের ভরা গাজনে মাদল ছিঁড়ে গিয়েছিল। ফলে তার মস্তকহীন কবন্ধ পরিষদের আনাচে-কানাচে ঘুরে বেড়াচ্ছিল। তার পূর্ণাঙ্গ প্রকাশের সুযোগ না নেওয়া নিন্দনীয়। কাজেই আমাকে পুনরায় পুনরালোচনায় পাঁয়তারা ভাজতে হ'ল। মিঃ ডেপুটী, স্পীকার, স্যার! তুল্য নিন্দাস্তুতি স্থানু মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর বাজেটের গতানুগতিক সমালোচনার কোন সার্থকতা আছে কিনা বলা যায় না। যদিও লাঠির আঘাতে অন্ধকার তাড়ান যায় না কিম্বা কানমুচড়ে কারুর মনের ভাব বদলানো যায় না, কিন্তু জলবিছুটি এসে না পৌঁছান পর্য্যন্ত তার সার্থকতা আছে। বৈষম্য প্রকৃতির নিয়ম। মানুষ তা সৃষ্টি করে না, বা তা উল্টাতেও পারে না, কিন্তু বৈষম্য থাকবে বলেই যে অভাব-অনটন চিরস্থায়ী মোকররী মৌরসী কায়েমী বাসা বেঁধে থাকবে এমন কোন কথা নাই, হাত যখন হাতের পিছনে যে শক্তি আছে তাকে ছাড়িয়ে যায়, যন্ত্র যখন যন্ত্রীর কর্ত্তা হয়ে তাকে চালাতে চায়, তখন সে যে কি ফল দাঁড়ায় তার মূর্ত্তিমান নিদর্শন বাংলা সরকারের কয়েক বৎসরের বাজেট। যখন আপন শক্তির মূলধন লয়ে জনসাধারণের কারবার না চলে তখন সকল ব্যাপারেই মানুষ দৈবের কাছে, গ্রহের কাছে, পরের কাছে হাত পেতে ভয়ে ভয়ে কাটায়—এই ভাবটার বর্ণনাই ফুটে উঠবে বাংলা সরকারের বাজেট-কাব্যে। অবশ্য অর্থসচিব গোস্বামী মহাশয়কে এর জন্য পুরাপুরি দোষী সাব্যস্ত করা চলে না। যেহেতু এমন সব মন্দভাগ্য লোক দেখা যায়, তাঁরা যে কাজে হাত দেন, যেখানে যান সেখানে সাগর পর্য্যন্ত শুকিয়ে যায়। কিন্তু কি আশ্চর্য্য! সমগ্র বাঙ্গালী জাতটার এমনি দুর্ভাগ্য যে প্রভুপাদ আসরে নামতে না নামতেই, মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বাংলা সরকারের তহবিলে হাত দিতে না দিতেই সারা বাংলার ভিটায় ভিটায় অচিরে ঘুঘু চরে গেল। ক্রমশঃ সারা বাংলা দেশটা একেবারে শ্মশানে পরিণত হল, তারপর দুর্ভাগ্য-দুর্ব্বিপাকে দুর্ভিক্ষ দানবের দুর্নিবার দুর্গপ্রাকার ভেদ করে যারা বেঁচেছে তারাই আবার সেই শ্মশানে বস্ত্রহীন দিগম্বর দিগম্বরী সেজে দলে দলে দিগ্বিদিক জ্ঞানশূন্য হয়ে ঘরে বেড়াচ্ছে। অথচ চোরাবাজারের দুরভিসন্ধিভরা দৈত্যদলন সম্ভব হচ্ছে না, শোনা যায় শ্মশানে বৈরাগ্য জন্মানো স্বাভাবিক। কিন্তু বাংলা দেশের শ্মশানে দাঁড়িয়েও নির্ব্বিকার মন্ত্রীমণ্ডলী যেভাবে স্বার্থ নিয়ে কাড়াকাড়ি, মারামারি করছেন তাতে সন্দেহ হয় বাংলার ভবিষ্যৎ বংশধর, যাদের সহিত এদের চাক্ষুষ পরিচয় ঘটার সম্ভব হবে না, তারা ইহাদিগকে মনুষ্য পর্য্যায়ে স্থান দিবে কিনা বলা যায় না। ইঁহাদের স্বার্থলোলুপতার আচরণে মহাভারত-প্রসিদ্ধ কুরুক্ষেত্রের ভুশুণ্ডীকাককে হার মেনে লজ্জায় দেশত্যাগী হতে হবে। কিন্তু মন্ত্রী মহাশয় দুষ্কর্ম্ম, কুকর্ম্ম, অপকর্ম্ম সমস্ত অপরাধ বেমালুম অস্বীকার করেছেন। তিনি আত্মরক্ষার প্রথম আদিমতম অস্ত্র মিথ্যা বলার এবং মিথ্যা ঘটনা বানিয়ে বলেই ক্ষান্ত হন নাই, পুনর্গঠন বিষয়ে সত্য ঘটনার অপলাপ করে, হেরফের ঘটিয়ে অব্যাহতি লাভ করার চেষ্টা করেছেন। এ থেকে অনুমান হয়, কল্পনা-শক্তিসম্পন্ন সরবরাহ-সচিব, খাদ্যদ্রব্যের অপ্রাচুর্য্যে যেমন যুক্তাহারের ব্যবস্থা প্রচার করে কৃতিত্ব অর্জন করেছিলেন, তেমনি অন্নবস্ত্র সমস্যার নিদারুণ সঙ্কটে ব্যয়-সঙ্কোচ শিক্ষার ব্যবস্থা করে কৃতার্থ হবেন কিনা কে জানে? আবার উদ্ভাবনী শক্তির প্রকাশের আত্মপ্রসাদে পুলকিত হয়ে সোৎসাহে উদাহরণ স্বরূপ অন্তর বাহ্য উভয়তঃ নগ্নতা অবলম্বন করে আদর্শস্থানীয় হয়ে উঠবেন কিনা কে বলতে পারে? বলা বাহুল্য ইহা কল্পনা নহে, হয়তো বা কোন শুভ মুহূর্ত্তে, গৃহ নির্ম্মাণের উপকরণের দুর্ম্মূল্যতা ও দুষ্প্রাপ্যতা এড়াবার জন্য অন্তঃসারশূন্য আধুনিক সভ্যতার মুখে ছাই দিয়ে বিলাসভবন, হর্ম্ম, অট্টালিকা, পাকা, কাঁচা বাড়ী, দোতলা, একতলা ঘর এমন কি, পাতার কুঁড়ে পর্য্যন্ত নিন্দাবাদ করে বাংলা সরকারের নিষ্প্রয়োজন, কর্ম্মবিরল, চাকুরে-বহুল সসচিব প্রচার বিভাগ Bengal Weekly "বাংলার কথা", "জাগরণ" প্রভৃতি সংবাদপত্রের মারফতে সুশীতল বৃক্ষতল আশ্রয় করার উপকারিতা সম্বন্ধে ওকালতি করবেন। এতে তাঁদের কর্ম্ম সংস্থান হবে এবং তদ্দ্বারা তাঁদের কিছুটা নিশ্চিন্ত নিরুদ্বিগ্ন আলস্য অপলোপন হবে। আবার সুযোগ বুঝে জনস্বাস্থ্য বিভাগীয় অতি সাবধানী মন্ত্রী মহাশয় ঔষধ-পথ্যাদির অভাব বশতঃ হয়তো স্বাস্থ্যোন্নতিকল্পে ফলমূলাদি আহার এবং যুগপৎ বৃক্ষারোহণ, শাখা হতে শাখান্তরে লম্ফ প্রদানে, গমনাগমন প্রভৃতি প্রক্রিয়ার ব্যায়াম শিক্ষার সদুপদেশ দিবেন। প্রতিবিধান বিষয়ক সতর্কবাণী প্রচার করবেন। ফলে ক্রমবিকাশ মতবাদকে লাঞ্ছিত করে "যথা পূর্ব্বং তথা পরং" "পুনরশাখা মৃগোভব", উদার মতবাদের পুনরভ্যুদয় হবে। মানুষের স্বচ্ছন্দবিহারী আদিম পূর্ব্বপুরুষদের পদাঙ্ক অনুসরণে অধঃপতিত বাঙ্গালী জনসাধারণ কৃতকৃতার্থ হবে।

আশার কথা, আনন্দের কথা, আদিম মানবতার লুপ্ত গৌরবের পুনরুদ্ধার হবে। তাঁরা পূর্ব্বাবস্থা ফিরে পাবেন। তাঁদের পুনর্মিলন সম্ভব হবে। ভয় হয় পাছে সংখ্যাধিক্যজনিত আত্মকলহ উপস্থিত হবে। বাংলা সরকারের পুনর্গঠন পরিকল্পনারও পরিসমাপ্তি হবে। হিংসুটে অবাঞ্ছিত বিরুদ্ধপক্ষীয় জন কতক লোক এর জন্য বাহবা না দিলে তাঁদের কিছুমাত্র যাবে আসবে না। বাংলা সরকারের ঘাটতি বাজেটের বস্তুকে পৌনপৌনিকবিদ্যু বললে কি হয়। ভারতবর্ষের প্রাদেশিক স্বায়ত্ত-শাসন শাসিত অন্যান্য প্রদেশ বাংলা সরকারের পুনর্গঠন পরিকল্পনার পূর্ণ পরিণতির অভিনবত্বে চমৎকৃত হবে। বিপুল উল্লাসে করতালি দিবে সন্দেহ নাই। মনে হয় প্রকৃতি পুরাকালে কখনও হয়তো এই বিষয়ে সিদ্ধিলাভ করে পুনরায় তাকে হারিয়ে ফেলেছিল। এখন আবার সেই সিদ্ধিরই দ্রুত পুনরাবৃত্তি হচ্ছে। কিন্তু ক্রম বিবর্ত্তনের ধীর মন্থর গতি অনুসরণ করে ভারতবর্ষের অন্যান্য প্রদেশ এরূপ শোচনীয় পশ্চাদগমনের অনুকরণ করবে না নিশ্চয়ই। আমি কিন্তু বাংলার এই অবস্থাকে দারুণ দুর্ভাগ্য বলে মনে করি। বাংলা দেশের এই দুরবস্থার পরিবর্ত্তন করতে হ'লে, বাংলার সমাজ, জীবনের ধ্বংসস্তূপের উপর নূতন সমাজের ভিত্তি স্থাপন করতে হ'লে, যেমন ব্যাধি, তার চাই তেমনি প্রতীকার। যা পুরাতন, যা জীর্ণ, দুঃস্থ, বিষাক্ত তাকে শোধরানর বৃথা চেষ্টা। সেজন্য প্রয়োজন পক্ষপাতহীন বৈজ্ঞানিক দৃষ্টিভঙ্গী নিয়ে আমাদের ভাগ্য বিপর্য্যয়ের কারণ অনুসন্ধান করার, নির্ণীত কারণসমূহের সমাজদেহ থেকে—রাষ্ট্রদেহ থেকে বিদূরিত করার এবং সেই বিপর্য্যয়কে এড়িয়ে কি করে জাতির অগ্রগমন সম্ভব হবে সেটা স্থির করার।

উৎপাদন বাড়ানো প্রধান সমস্যা সত্য, কিন্তু উৎপাদন বাড়ানোর প্রয়াস মাত্রেই দুঃখ ঘুচবে না। অপব্যয়, অপচয়ের দিকে লক্ষ্য রাখা চাই। উৎপাদন কর্ম্মশক্তির দান অগ্নিস্ফুলিঙ্গের ন্যায়। এ দিয়ে যেমন প্রদীপ জ্বালান যায় আবার অর্ব্বাচীন, অনভিজ্ঞ, অপগণ্ড শিশু কর্ম্মকর্ত্তার হাতে গৃহদাহের উপকরণ হ'য়ে উঠতে পারে। বাংলা সরকার অধিক শস্য ফলাও আন্দোলন, মৎস্যচাষ, ছাগবৃদ্ধি নৌগঠন প্রভৃতি পরিকল্পনার যত বেশী গড়েচে বা গড়বার চেষ্টা করেছে, তার চাইতে ঢের বেশী ভেঙ্গেচে, অপব্যয়-অপচয় করেছে। সকল অবিচার-অনাচার অনর্থের মূল অন্যায় লোভ অপ্রত্যাশিত ঘুষঘাষ এবং অপরের ঘাড়ে দোষ চাপিয়ে স্বীয় স্বার্থ রক্ষা। এই সব নীচ প্রবৃত্তির প্রশমনেই প্রচণ্ড সমস্যা। পক্ষান্তরে বাংলা সরকার গঠনমূলক সমস্যা সমাধানের পথে একচক্ষু হয়ে চলেছে। তাই সে আজ দীন দরিদ্র দুর্ব্বল। নিজের শরীরকেই বাঁচিয়ে বত্তিয়ে রাখবার যার যোগ্যতা নেই তার আবার যুদ্ধোত্তর পুনর্গঠনের সামর্থ্য বা অবসর কোথায়? যদিও প্রাদেশিক স্বায়ত্ত-শাসনের কল্যাণে আমাদের একালের ভাগ্যে দেশে অনেকগুলি দশের কাজের পত্তন হয়েছে তবুও দশের কাজ একের কাজ হয়ে উঠবার জন্য কেবলই ঠেলা মারছে। যেহেতু কর্ত্তার ইচ্ছায় কর্ম্ম। ইহাই বৃটিশ আমলাতন্ত্রের সুচিন্তিত অভিমত ও চিরাচরিত নীতি। যদিও পৃথিবীর সব দেশই কর্ত্তার সম্পূর্ণ একতরফা শাসন হতে ছুটি লইতে চায় তথাপি বাংলা সরকারের মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী রাষ্ট্র ব্যাপারে চিরাভ্যস্ত 'কর্ত্তাভজা' বীজমন্ত্রটা ভুলতে চান না। অত্যন্ত লজ্জার কথা, চোখের চেয়ে চোখের ঠুলিকে তাঁরা অতিরিক্ত শ্রদ্ধা করেন। তাই বাংলা সরকারের সচিবসঙ্ঘ বৃটিশ আমলাতন্ত্রের সনাতন ধাত্রীর কাঁধে চড়ে ভারি গর্ব্ব করেন। বলেন ওটা বড় উঁচু জায়গা, ওখান হতে পা মাটিতেই পড়ে না। ঐ কাঁধে চড়ে আত্মকর্তৃত্বের রাজদণ্ড হাতে ধরলে বড় শোভা হয়। তাতে ভারি আরাম। দায়িত্বকে তাঁরা স্বীকার করেন, উপভোগের বস্তুরূপে।

দুঃখের পর দুঃখ, দুর্ভিক্ষের পর দুর্ভিক্ষ, অন্যবস্ত্র সমস্যা অভাব-অনটন এমন কি বাঘে-ডাকাতে তাড়া করলেও অস্ত্র তোলবার হুকুম নাই। অস্ত্র ব্যবহারের গণ্ডি এত বেশী যে একটু এদিক ওদিক হলেই দুর্জ্জয় কানমলা। ডাকাত পড়লে ডাকাতের চেয়ে জনভ্যাসের বন্দুকটা লয়ে ফাঁপরে পড়তে হয়।

যে কোন কারণেই হউক বিক্ষুব্ধ অর্থসচিব মহাশয় এই পর্ব্বতপ্রমাণ ঘাটতি পুরণের জন্য কেন্দ্রীয় সরকারের পক্ষ থেকে কোন ভরসা না পেয়েও আপাততঃ কোন প্রকার নূতন কর স্থাপনের সিদ্ধান্ত প্রকাশ্যে, তাঁর বাজেট প্রবন্ধে কোন প্রস্তাব করেন নাই। তথাপি বাঙ্গালী জনসাধারণ অনাগত আতঙ্কে আড়ষ্ট হয়ে পড়েচে। আমাদেরও ভয় হয় পাছে বৃটিশ আমলাতন্ত্রের ক্রীড়নক মন্ত্রী মহাশয় অতর্কিতে করভারজর্জ্জরিত বাঙ্গালীর দুর্ব্বল স্কন্ধে এই বিষম বিপর্য্যয়ের কালেও আর কোন গুরুতর কর স্থাপনের প্রস্তাব করেন। তাতে হয়ত বা মন্ত্রিত্বের গদি নিরাপদ হবে এবং কতকটা সোয়াস্তি বোধ করবেন কিন্তু, বাঙ্গালী জনসাধারণের দুর্দ্দশার সীমা থাকবে না। তাতে লোকাপবাদজনিত তাঁর যশ-লিপ্ত মসী আরও গাঢ়তর হবে। আমরা তাঁকে পুনঃ পুনঃ সতর্ক করি, তিনি যেন তাঁর দন্তানল পুনর্বার না করেন।

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, in rising to speak at this late stage of the Budget discussion, it may not be possible for me to say much that is new. However, I propose to deal with the financial statement in my own way. Never before, Sir, a Budget which carries with it

its own condemnation and which looks like an inventory in an insolvency proceedings, has been presented with such an absurd note of self-complacency and even self-congratulation.

Now, Sir, in presenting the estimates for 1945-46, the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra Goswami has given us their, i.e., the ministerial, "estimates of the two years' working"—the two years to which we can find a near parallel by travelling a century and three quarters back to the beginning of British rule in Bengal, viz., to 1770 and 1771. What strikes one however is that the parallelism does not end with mass suffering but extends to revenue matters as well. Warren Hastings said that in 1771 the year following the great Bengal famine of 1770 revenue collection was the largest since 1768 and in the statement of the Hon'ble Mr. Goswami we find that in 1943-44 and 1944-45 the maximum receipts of pre-famine years have been easily exceeded or are certain to exceed. New taxes apart, if taxes on income increased from a little over 2 crores in 1942-43 to the neighbourhood of 4 crores in 1943-44, Land Revenue goes beyond 4 crores. The advance of Other Taxes and Duties from one and a half crore in 1942-43 to near about 3 crores in 1943-44 is nothing in comparison with the triumphal march of Excise from 2½ crores in 1942-43 to more than 4 crores in 1943-44. Has the Russian Vodka such a success to its credit as our country spirit with the aid of whisky has so easily won? It has greater triumphs in store inasmuch as the Finance Minister has announced, not merely in "broad outlines" but with broad smiles, that it promises to yield in the current year, as we correctly surmised before but they left unsaid, a revenue much more than the total receipt of 1942-43 and 1943-44 together. A unique performance indeed for a revenue head, but it is a record which is going to be surpassed in 1945-46. If a nation cannot be fed and clothed, it must be drugged and doped.

As Mr. Goswami has never suffered from any weakness of orthodoxy he has thought it fit to begin his statement not by thanking God for the relief due to better crop in 1944 but by accusing the hostile critics and appropriating all the thanks to himself and his colleagues for "careful planning and effective execution of the three-fold programme of production' procurement and distribution of food" and by advertising that "Government have been able to redeem this pledge that there shall be no famine in 1944". He however conveniently forgets the promise that he and his colleagues particularly the Minister of Civil Supplies, made on their assumption of office, about 1943. Who does not know the assurance that was repeatedly given to the people doomed to die by millions echoing the bureaucratic lie that there was no deficit, no dearth of food in Bengal in 1943 and that only the drive against hoarding would ensure plenty of food for all? The men on whose shoulders lies the responsibility of sending famished millions to their grave between July and December, 1943, should not at least be so devoid of all sense of shame as to brag about their performance in 1944. What again is the performance of 1944 the year that opened with an outturn of 103 per cent. of winter rice crop? Although they carefully planned not to have record of deaths due to starvation in the mufassal, the number of destitutes that were reported in the censored press to have died in the Calcutta hospitals in the months of 1944-45 was quite large to make any Government feel ashamed that is of course alive to human suffering. If there has been no Famine in 1944-45, not to speak of 1944 why upon revision the original estimate for famine relief in 1944-45 has had to be increased from 261 to 385 lakhs. Is it to relieve the henchmen and the proteges of the Government? What again is a famine if not scarcity of food even if the scarcity be due to high prices beyond the purchasing power of the millions among the masses? Could anybody truthfully say that the price levels of the foodgrains in 1944-45 did sink so low as to make them available to all the six and a quarter crores of people excepting the 18 lakhs who were sold foodgrains at reduced rates? For a Finance Minister to

forget all these and say that there was no famine in 1944 was mere balderdash inspired by an avidity for self-praise. As regards the alleged claim of effective execution of the three-fold programme of "production, procurement and distribution" it is a claim as unfounded as the story of elimination of famine-conditions. Take the basic question of production. Hundreds of acres reclaimed by water-hyacinth barricades, hundreds of acres, again, of railway side land cultivated, manures supplied to stockists at 29 important centres, stores established at district and subdivisional headquarters, all might have constituted successful operations indeed but unfortunately the patient died and instead of more food less was produced. The final forecast of autumn rice crop for 1944-45 says:—

According to the District Officers' estimates the autumn rice is to yield an outturn of 82 per cent. of the normal this year against 96 per cent. last year. The gross outturn of Bhadoi autumn rice for the province is estimated at 2,664,300 tons this year against 3,041,300 tons last year"; and the second, *i.e.*, the latest forecast of winter crop, the staple foodgrain of the province, says:—

"According to estimates the provincial outturn works out to 84 per cent. of the normal against 101 and 103 per cent. respectively in the corresponding and final forecasts of last year. The gross yield of the crop is estimated at 7,093,500 tons this year against the estimates of 8,333,800 and 8,528,100 tons respectively in the corresponding and the final forecasts of last year".

Thus notwithstanding all the additional staff and experts, notwithstanding all the fanferonade about the Grow-More-Food campaign we shall have 1,473,300 tons less rice to feed our famished millions this year. That is the upshot of the great campaign for more production.

But careful has been the plan and successful the execution, it is alleged, of the procurement programme. But with what objective, pray, Government undertook the same? Surely not to trade on its own account on forced levies secured at dictated price nor to allow purchased grains to rot. The idea in the first place was to build up reserves of foodgrains for relief and, next, to bring down the abnormal and exorbitant prices? Reserves were of course built up but relief was meant more for the Government establishments and the employees than for the famine-stricken. Reserves again were so built up that but for military help they could not move. They were so built up again that rice went off the market at many places for months on end and instead of stablization of prices exorbitant and fantastic prices ruled the markets all over Bengal and particularly in the eastern districts so much so that like the blackout of the news of deaths due to starvation the blackout of reports of exorbitant prices of rice had to be secured.

Then again what greater evidence of careful planning of procurement operations can be met with than that furnished by the following figures?

	1943-44. Lakhs.	1944-45. Lakhs.	Total. Lakhs.
Budget deficit on revenue account	303	11,34	14,37
Loss on the purchase of foodgrains	350	13,14	16,90

It is apparent that our budget deficit during the two years, the last and the current, are not due to "Famine" expenditure proper nor even to Civil Defence but entirely to the huge loss sustained on the purchas of foodgrains. In fact these losses have been more than our deficits by nearly 253 lakhs. Next year the alleged carefully planned procurement operation is expected to occasion a further loss of 554 lakhs, apparently three crores less than the total estimated deficit of 859 lakhs but larger loss on "final adjustment" may be trusted to do the trick of equalising the two figures. The inefficiency, the mismanagement and the mishandling of the nation's food

resources that these losses, never properly estimated or accounted for and in respect of stocks never properly checked or verified, losses that grow in the dark, only to be adjusted out of time, in other words to be written off the books, represent the plague spot of our budget. It is said, "these losses are due in the main to sale of foodgrains to the public at prices below those at which they were purchased and to devaluation of Government stocks as a result of progressive statutory lowering of price levels". If so, these losses could be specifically and definitely accounted for, and the budget of the relevant head should not have been the least communicative. Other provinces such as the United Provinces have created what is called the Supply Schemes Stabilisation Fund for the purpose of meeting such losses, but in Bengal we hear instead of "the other contributory factors like damaged stocks and loss in transit" resulting in further losses unspecified and unaccounted for——

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: It is the Ministry Stabilisation Fund in Bengal!

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: So long as our budget presents such a dark and dirty pit, only the promoters of the present Ministry which has taken the advice of helping themselves much too literally may plead for sympathy for Bengal's budgetary position, but decent men may have reason to feel hesitant.

Mr. Gladding seeing that the Bengal budget has run to ruck and ruin with its huge recurring deficits and mounting unproductive debts has thought it fit to attack the Niemeyer Award and the Central Government's attitude towards Bengal. Against the profuse thanks of the Bengal Finance Ministers uttered with due "humility" and "donning the weeds of woe" for "compassionate grants", Mr. Gladding's vigorous protests in shining armour furnish an enjoyable contrast indeed. Since the Marquess of Zetland as Lord Ronaldshay started protesting against the Meston Award from the gubernatorial chair in Bengal we have not seen the Centre yield except doling out compassionate grants on occasion nor any awarding Knight to see the justice of Bengal's case and come to her aid. In the circumstances the consistently reckless budgeting of the Muslim League Government of Bengal and the rake's progress in which it has been indulging all these years with the annual congratulations and repeated benedictions of the European group are something more than matters of regret. A province has been deliberately landed in financial disaster through treasonable improvidence and a fair measure of it can be taken if we compare for example the budgetary performance of Bombay and Bengal since 1938-39 up to 1943-44. Bombay budget for 1945-46 not being available up till now I am sorry I have not been able to gather the actual or the revised figures for 1944-45.

	Bombay. Lakhs.	Bengal. Lakhs.
1938-39.		
Revenue	12,44	12,76
Expenditure	12,79	12,76
	−35	No deficit.
1939-40.		
Revenue	13,14	14,31
Expenditure	12,83	13,71
	+31	+60

Then comes the turning of the tide—

	Bombay. Lakhs.	Bengal. Lakhs.
1940-41.		
Revenue	14,48	13,54
Expenditure	13,60	14,45
	+88	−91

1941-42.			
Revenue	16,86	14,94	
Expenditure	15,25	15,50	
	+161	−56	
1942-43.			
Revenue	19,70	16,46	
Expenditure	17,78	16,79	
	+192	−33	

It must be remembered that this year of the smallest deficit for Bengal was the year when the Fazlul Huq, Coalition Ministry was in power. Then come the revised estimates for 1943-44—

1943-44.	Bombay. Lakhs.	Bengal. Lakhs.
Revenue	23,87	21,34
Expenditure	22,24	32,53
	+163	−11,19

The figures show that while Bombay starting with deficit has consistently built up surpluses, Bengal with no deficit to start with has throughout piled up deficits in spite of all improvements in her revenue receipts. While larger revenue in Bombay has meant more and more surplus, greater service to the people, larger provision for development, less burden of debt or debts productive, in Bengal more taxes and receipts have meant more deficits, more extravagance, multiple employments, enlarged departments, greater waste, growing debts and debts unproductive. And our good Finance Minister now wails in his simplicity that Bengal has no large-scale irrigation projects or hydro-electric schemes which create additional natonal wealth but have on the contrary "the dead weight" of an appalling unproductive debt "which has no counterpart in any of the other Provinces, large or small". Yet the total revenue receipt of Bengal this year or in the next is expected to be 29 crores where it was only 13 crores in 1938-39. It is a lie to say that Bengal has not raised or produced sufficient money to finance her normal needs and even her essential developments. If her revenue has been frittered away or found unequal to the present extraordinary burden, not of her creation, and she has been reduced to bankruptcy, the responsibility is not of the people but of her Government. But in her present budgetary position for her Finance Minister to talk glibly of ensuring "ampler scope to emergent life" is a cruel mockery, when we see on every side the harrowing march of resurgent death. (Applause from the Opposition benches.)

Mr. J. R. WALKER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the difficult circumstances of the Province, the task of the Finance Minister is not a pleasant one. He cannot expect congratulations, but if, Sir, he takes us fully into his confidence, if he explains to us fully how the deficits in the present budget have occurred and satisfies us that they are unavoidable, and if he satisfies us that he has explored every possible avenue of meeting these deficits, he is entitled to our sympathy and co-operation in meeting his difficulties.

Now, Sir, as my honourable friend has just said, undoubtedly the main item in these revenue deficits is the loss on food transactions and the expenditure on the Civil Supplies Department. Together they account for no less than 16½ crores of the expenditure in the current year and more than 8 crores expenditure in the coming year. As regards this expenditure, the Finance Minister has a particularly heavy responsibility to discharge. Government are conducting a large-scale business in food-grains and other commodities. The Finance Minister is the Chairman of the Board of Directors and we, Sir, are the angry shareholders. We want to know, Sir,

how these losses have occurred. We expect the Finance Minister to give us full details and show that these losses were unavoidable, that everything possible was done to minimise them and above all we want to know the full extent of our losses in the future. The Finance Minister's explanation of these huge losses is contained in two sentences: "These losses are due in the main—I emphasise these words—to sale of foodgrains to the public at prices below those at which they were purchased and to devaluation of Government's stocks, as a result of progressive statutory lowering of price levels. But there are other contributory factors, like damaged stocks and loss in transit". Somewhat mystified by this cryptic statement and still very angry, we turn to the "Red Book" and to the detailed estimates. The "Red Book" is even more cryptic and mystifying. Losses and Civil Supplies expenditure are lumped together with a number of other items under the sub-head "Miscellaneous" of the head "Extraordinary Charges in India". "Extraordinary Charges in India" which amount to no less than 18 crores in the current year are contained in one page of the "Red Book" extending to 117 pages. In an extraordinary note it is stated that the bulk of the increase occurs under loss on the sale of subsidised food to the public and separate figures are given for wheat and wheat products and other foodgrains. There is a capital account which is supposed to record the food transactions, but this, Sir, in my humble opinion, bears no resemblance to a proper trading account and gives us no information at all. We learn, Sir, however, that in addition to these losses there is the cost of supply of food-stuffs at concession rates to Government employees estimated at nearly 50 lakhs in the current year and 42 lakhs in the coming year. We turn, Sir, to the detailed accounts in the "Blue Book" but we find, Sir, that this gives us no details at all and merely repeats the lump sum figures of the losses under the head "Losses on sale of subsidised food". Nowhere, so far as we can see, is any attempt made to explain how these losses are made up. Now, Sir, we are asked to believe that these losses are due mainly to subsidised sale of food-grains and to progressive depreciation of prices, but this is just what we find hard to believe. We did not know, Sir, that Government had been subsidising the sale of rice and wheat products to the public, except under the head "Famine Relief" and that is separately accounted for. We did not know, Sir, that Government had been depreciating the retail prices of their foodgrains. On the other hand, we do know that Government rice has been selling in Calcutta and in other rationed areas at Rs. 16-4 per maund during the past year, and we had always understood that this price fully covered Government's costs in the matters. In fact, Sir, it has been our grievance that, while Government's buying prices have been progressively decreasing, Government's selling prices have remained stationary even although for some time past open market retail prices of rice have in many areas fallen below the level of Rs. 16-4 per maund. In these circumstances we are led to believe that the contributory causes, namely, damaged stocks and loss in transit, have played a larger part than the Finance Minister has admitted. If this is so, then I can only say that it is the duty of the Finance Minister to say so fully and frankly. We can understand that some losses were inevitable. We understand that the setting up of a large storage and inspection organisation was a vast undertaking which took time, but we are surely entitled to a full explanation of how these losses are made up, and I trust that the Finance Minister in his reply will deal with this matter fully and frankly. Until this is done, we must remain very angry shareholders.

The next question I would like to ask is, do we yet know the full extent of our food losses and if so, has the full extent of our food losses been included in the case submitted to the Government of India for financial assistance? If we do not know the full extent of our food losses, then I think it is up to the Finance Minister to say so. We are told by the Finance Minister that the existence of such large stocks in the possession of Government must necessarily raise important problems of disposal and

turning over of stocks. We are told that it has been decided in consultation with the Government of India to accelerate offtake within the Province itself by suitable reduction of prices with a view to prevent deterioration through long storage and to release sufficient storage space for the new aman crop. What exactly are the plans for accelerating offtake by reduction of prices and when will they begin to operate? Have the losses which will be incurred in the procedure of accelerating offtake by reducing prices been taken into account in the Budget estimate? What exactly has been included in the figure of 5½ crores which has been included in the estimates as the estimated loss of food transactions?

It is a long time, Sir, since we have heard anything from Government on their food policy and plans, and we had expected that the Finance Minister, in view of the major part that food expenditure plays in his Budget, would give us a general outline of Government's food policy for the coming year. Last year, if I remember rightly, a Press statement was issued at the beginning of the year outlining the rice procurement policy for 1944. This year, there has been a disturbing silence, although we understand that substantial changes both in procurement and in price policy are contemplated. We hope, Sir, that the Finance Minister will remedy this omission and we hope, Sir, that we shall have a full statement from the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Supplies of his policy for 1945.

Mr. Gladding has stressed—and rightly so I think—that this Province should be placed not only on an even keel but in an equal position with other provinces as regards post-war development. One method that the Central Government can adopt to equalise the burden of war and famine conditions, is to increase this province's share of the grants by the Central Government for post-war development. If, however, we are to qualify for increased grants, or for that matter for any grants at all, there are two essential conditions which, it seems to me, this province must fulfil. The first is that our post-war schemes must be completed and ready and the second is that we must have an efficient administration capable of carrying out these schemes. On the first condition, I must express serious disappointment at the apparent lack of progress in formulating post-war reconstruction schemes disclosed by the Finance Minister's statement. At the beginning of January, Sir, the Planning and Development Member of the Government of India announced that the United Provinces and Bombay Governments had already submitted their plans for the first 5-year period and those provinces who had not done so, were expected to do so by the middle of January Since then the Punjab Government and possibly other Provincial Governments, have submitted their plans. On the 10th of January it was announced in the Press that the Bengal Government proposed to spend Rs. 150 crores on a 5-year post-war reconstruction plan, of which Rs. 50 crores had been assured by the Central Government and Rs. 25 crores would be found by the Bengal Government from the provincial exchequer. The only information, however, given us in the Budget Statement is that a number of sub-committees of the Post-war Reconstruction Committee have been fixing targets for development of agriculture, education, industries, communications, health and housing and their blue prints will in due course be ready. There is no indication that the plan for the first 5-year period is ready or even nearly ready. On the other hand, answers to questions in this House have disclosed that one of the sub-committees have not even met and another has only had one meeting. I ask the Finance Minister to state definitely what is the position with regard to Bengal's plan for the first 5-year period. When will this plan be submitted to the Government of India? Why is it that the Bengal Government whose need and whose claim for assistance is so much greater than other provinces have lagged behind the provinces of Bombay, the United Provinces, and the Punjab? Are we to have a repetition of the position with regard to the Central Road Fund when grants lapsed because the Provincial Government could not produce completed schemes?

Has Bengal's case for a larger share of the grants for post-war development been submitted to the Government of India? This is a very serious matter and I trust that the Finance Minister will deal with it fully in his reply.

The second condition which I feel sure will be attached to grants for post-war development is the existence of an efficient administration. Honourable members who have read the Second Report on Reconstruction Planning of the Reconstruction Committee of the Executive Council will have noted the stress which is placed on the need for an efficient administration as a limiting factor in planning and preparing for post-war development. It is stated in this Report with emphasis that "at a time when both the revenue and capital resources of the Centre are likely to be unequal to demands it will be essential to make grants available only to such administrations as are judged capable of utilising them to good advantage." A little later on in the same Report it is stated that very considerable increases will be necessary as regards both administrative and technical staff, and new services of specialised branches may have to be created. I would like to stress this because honourable members have criticised the creation of new posts even in the long neglected Departments of Agriculture and Fisheries.

This province has much leeway to make up. The financial limitations under which the province has suffered since the days of the Meston Award have prevented the expansion of our administrative machinery in accordance with the growth of population and the growth in the volume of work. Our district administration remains today in numbers and composition very much the same as it was in 1913, when the last Administration Committee was appointed. Our agricultural service has never been developed and is much below the standards of other provinces. The District Administration Committee of 1913 recommended that the districts of Mymensingh, Midnapore, Dacca and Bakarganj were too large for efficient administration and should be immediately partitioned. They also expressed the view that the partitioning of the districts of Faridpur, Tippera and 24-Parganas could not long be delayed and should be taken up as soon as circumstances permitted. None of these districts have been partitioned and today the district of Mymensingh has a population of 6 million, the district of Dacca a population of over 4 million and the district of Midnapore a population of over 3 million. The main reason for not carrying out these proposals was of course financial. The Meston Settlement in 1920 forced the province to go in for retrenchment and proposals for partitioning the districts were inevitably shelved although it is to be noted that the Swan Retrenchment Committee, in 1932, expressed the view that any district with a population of over 2 million was too large for good administration. I have stressed this point, Sir, because it seems to me that the first principle of good administration is that the unit of administration should be manageable and our districts in Bengal appear to me with a few exceptions to be quite unmanageable. In this respect we are seriously handicapped in relation to other provinces. For example, the United Provinces with a population of 55 millions has not less than 48 districts as compared with Bengal with a population of 60 millions and only 26 districts. Only one district in the United Provinces has a population of over 3 millions and in the majority of the districts the population is about 1 million.

Now, Sir, this question of an efficient administration is nearly the fundamental prerequisite for development in this province and plans for reorganisation of the administration should, in our opinion, be placed foremost in our post-war reconstruction plans. I am glad, therefore, to note the appointment of the Rowland Committee and I am glad also to note the new and much needed attention which is now being paid to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. I would like to feel sure, Sir, that the report of the Rowlands Committee will not meet with the same fate as the Report of the District Administration Committee in 1913. I would like

to be assured, Sir, that the recommendations of the Rowlands Committee will form the first plank in the Bengal Government's post-war development plan for the first 5-year period. If this is done, Sir, I feel sure that our claim for a larger share of the grants for post-war development will receive favourable consideration.

In conclusion, Sir, I would like to express the hope that a comprehensive settlement with the Government of India will be reached at an early date and also to reiterate the hope expressed by Mr. Gladding that our claim for assistance has been fully and officially recorded in writing. The present position is demoralising. It is demoralising to members of the legislature who year after year are confronted with revenue deficits which this province cannot hope to meet and cannot be expected to meet. It is demoralising to Government and the administration who are compelled to go on spending money to meet the abnormal needs of the province without knowing from what sources the funds for this abnormal expenditure will come. It is not in this way, Sir, that this province will acquire that sense of financial responsibility to which the Finance Member of the Government of India referred in last year's Budget discussion.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Mr.. Deputy Speaker, the economics of the budget has been admirably summarised by many speakers before me, particularly by my friend Rai Harendra Nath Chaudhuri and by the Deputy Leader of the European Group, Mr. Gladding. Mr. Gladding has shown the desperate position of Bengal as compared with other provinces. He has pointed out the inadequacy of the assistance from the Centre and finally he has entered a strong plea for more generous assistance from that quarter. I have no quarrel with that plea. I would also join wholeheartedly in demanding more assistance from the centre to this war-burdened province of ours. I would in particular insist on getting the entire cost of boat reconstruction which has been necessitated by the foolish boat Denial Policy and the scandalous execution of it—now an open secret as a result of discussion in the Central Assembly.

Today I am going to deal with the politics of the budget. But before I do so, as one of the angry and inquisitive shareholders non-participating in the profits, I must refer pointedly to the huge trading losses in foodgrains, the details of which this House has not been confided with. People in Bengal feel strongly that the huge supply of foodgrains in the hands of Government has been mishandled, if not mis-used, and preventible waste has occurred. Foodgrains which should have been made available to feed the hungry and to save lives of the people lay stocked almost in the same way and in the same manner as the black-market profiteers hoarded their stocks in an insatiable thirst for undue profit while their unfortunate brothers and sisters suffered from starvation and died before their very eyes. This House is entitled to know and demand details about—I am pointedly putting the questions so that the Hon'ble Minister can reply—details about firstly, quantities of foodgrains obtained from outside as also procured from inside the province during the previous years; secondly, the actual purchase rate and costs incurred for procurement showing separately the remuneration paid to purchasing agents of Government; thirdly, the costs for moving the supplies to and storage in places where these were sent; fourthly, the price at which foodgrains were sold to the public and to Government employees; fifthly, the quantity of deteriorated foodgrains and the sources from where these were received and where these were stored; and sixthly, causes for deterioration and what causes, if any, were beyond the control of Government. I insist upon clear replies to all these points. Unless and until these details are furnished by Government, they can not complain if the people and their representatives in this House condemn them for their sinful inefficiency or even suspect their honesty of purpose and honesty of action. Clarification on these points is also necessary for enabling the Bengal public to back up the claims of this Government for more liberal

assistance from the Centre. Who knows that the belief of the Central Government of the bungling by this Government or of criminal waste of public money may not be responsible for the apathy that they are showing towards this province?

Sir, politically the budget represents an utterly bureaucratic outlook wedded to its inseparable mate complacency. Apparently in spite of all the positive and negative demonstration of the utter futility of bureaucratic methods in combating an acute crisis, the Ministry still persists in that same method.

We have had a lengthy disquisition on how the Government has tackled the manifold problems that have brought misery, destruction and death in Bengal. The Finance Minister may exult at the second famine not having broken out in 1944 but he has failed to satisfy us that with a less fortunate crop situation the spectre of famine may not reappear again. The boastful claim of the Hon'ble Finance Minister that by careful planning and effective execution of the threefold programme of production, procurement and distribution of food the Government has redeemed the pledge is wholly untenable and will not stand scrutiny. The Bengal Budget discloses an absolute want of definite plan and programme of action except careful planning in one direction, namely, multiplication of Government Departments and recruitment of staff, high and low, and a few foreign experts but without any definite scheme for effectively utilising them.

The salient features of the Government plan for increasing food production are Grow More Food scheme, Fisheries Development scheme, Livestock Replenishment Scheme and Crop Statistics scheme. In all these schemes there is one thing certain and that is that the Government wil not succeed in tackling any of these problems successfully. My reason for this certainty is not a prophetic vision but the very method of tackling them, that is, by creating more and still more posts, bureaucratic method of executing them and their utter estrangement from the people. We find as a result of this boastful planning and effective execution of the programme of production even according to Government the crop outturn is only 84 per cent. this year and one can safely assert that it is not more than 80 per cent. We all know that seeds were not available when required and the scheme of production was hampered due to want of co-ordination between the different Departments of Government, particularly between Irrigation and Agriculture Departments. We also know that each district was allotted a lakh of rupees to be spent on small irrigation works to augment food production but only about five lakhs out of it was actually spent whether properly or not we have yet to know.

It is typical of the Government mentality that in discussing all these schemes the first worry of the Finance Minister has been the difficulty of setting up the requisite Department. May I give one illustration and the supporters of more establishments will kindly note including the Leader of the European Group? The Hon'ble Finance Minister has mentioned amongst the schemes about distribution of specially designed Persian wheels for irrigation. A glance at page 340 of the Blue Book shows that cost of Persian wheels are estimated at Rs. 62,000 but the costs of establishment for distribution are Rs. 48,000 in 1945-46 in addition to Rs. 29,000 provided in the current year. Thus for distribution and demonstration of Persian wheels worth Rs. 62,000 establishment costs amount to Rs. 77,000.

Mr. Ispahani may perhaps help. I do not find him here. He could have told us why Persian wheels proved so costly to Bengal finance.

The Government has collected experts from New Zealand and from England. A grand scheme has been set up for training up 300 additional persons for the Agriculture Department. The Government finds it difficult to get 123 new persons for the Fisheries Department. They have not considered what little the 400 or 500 additional job holders can do. Sir, it is

not a question of 500 persons, the problem is too big, for 500 or even 5,000 Indian job holders trained in all the mysteries of Agriculture and Pisciculture to tackle. The problem is too big for them to tackle. Nothing short of 60 million Bengalees will be needed to solve this problem of adequate food production. The 300 additional men, the additional departments and the foreign experts working their brains to their fullest capacity will make little difference to the total output of food in Bengal. It will not make any difference even if the Government subsequently set up another department to ascertain and remedy the causes which prevent the increase of food production in spite of the strengthening of the Agricultural Department and so on *ad infinitum*.

What will, however, do the trick even with much less numerous staff is a frank appeal to the patriotism of the people. Tell them in a language they understand that by growing more food they are fulfilling the patriotic duty of saving the province and the heritage which this province has received from generations of her illustrious children. Tell them that by growing more food they help to keep alive the burning urge for freedom which is extinguished by the demoralising and disintegrating effects of famine and you will find a substantial increase in food production will definitely result. The same remarks apply to the other schemes. One word about the Livestock Replenishment Scheme. The cattle purchase loan has been an utter farce. According to a long venerated and immutable practice, the Government usually advance Rs. 20 or thereabouts as loan for the purpose of cattle. It has been nothing to them that cattle prices have gone up to about Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 a head and that the old scale of loans are ridiculously inadequate. Practice is practice and bureaucracy is bureaucracy. This much about Grow More Food scheme.

Sir, the Finance Minister has stated that the Rehabilitation Scheme aims at providing the more enduring benefits in addition to the short term benefits derived from the other schemes. I can do nothing better than to state some facts which will tell their own story. According to reliable statisticians one crore of Bengalees out of 6 crore and 30 lacs were thrown out into the streets as a result of the famine. Of these, thanks to the efficiency of the Ministry, 35 lakhs have perished, 65 lakhs are still helpless destitutes. Of these 15 lakhs are rural artisans and fishermen, 25,000 are school teachers, another 15 lakhs are peasants with small holdings and the rest about 30 lakhs are landless labourers and poor middle class families. Again, of the estimated figure of 80 lakhs plough cattle of this province 20 to 25 per cent. have died or have been slaughtered leaving a deficiency of at least 16 lakhs if not 20 lakhs. The ten lakhs of houses will have to be rebuilt and 30,000 big boats will have to be reconstructed even without counting the small boats that need also be supplied.

Can the Ministry even with all its swollen head claim that their Rehabilitation Scheme provides for all these or even a bare fraction of these? If you examine the provisions for rehabilitation it becomes at once clear that it does not touch even the fringe of the problem. The Ministry on the contrary by its policy of drift is increasing the number of destitutes every day. The stoppage of supply of yarn is swelling the number of destitutes amongst the handloom weavers in Bengal. The province is faced with an acute cloth crisis. The Ministry should have organised and augmented the production at least of coarse cloth for the poor.

There is a centre in the subdivision of Narayanganj in the district of Dacca called Baburhat known as the Manchester of Bengal where about 40,000 handloom weavers weave *dhoties*, *sarees* and *lungees* with coarse yarns which supply the needs of the poorer section in the East Bengal districts. The Ministry has shown a callous indifference towards them. I am sure a good supply of coarse yarn could easily be arranged if the Ministry sincerely and honestly tried. In this connection I may tell the House that at a

conference over yarn convened by the Minister of Civil Suppiles the proprietor of a yarn mill in Bengal who produced coarse yarns complained that a heavy quantity of their coarse yarns were frozen but no arrangements for distribution of those bales of yarn were made, nor permits were issued to send to Bihar where these were in demand. The next day a party offered to take those frozen coarse yarn for helping these handloom weavers of Baburhat and another indigenous industry in writing to the Hon'ble Minister of Civil Supplies, as also to the Chairman of the Provincial Textile Board but no reply was received. Eventually it transpired that 500 bales of coarse yarn have been permitted to be sent out of this province. Being taxed about it, the Party was informed by the Hon'ble Minister of the Civil Supplies that he was making an enquiry into the matter but that enquiry has either not been undertaken at all nor has been finished during the last 3 months. If after such happenings poor hand-loom weavers and the public feel that the freezing of yarns are done for some ulterior benefit and not for the benefit of the poor weavers will they not be justified?

Time at my disposal is limited, otherwise I could tell the House that the cloth famine is also due to the failure and unwillingness on the part of the Ministry to ration whatever supply is available. My information is that though no cloth or sarees are available in the shops there are in Bengal about 10,000 bales of cloth some frozen and some in the hands of persons who are friendly to those who enjoy the confidence of the Textile Commissioner and the Minister of the Civil Supplies. The constantly changing and none too clear policy of the Civil Supplies Department in regard to cloth and yarn is making the task of rehabilitation more and more difficult and adding to the untold miseries of the people.

Sir, the rehabilitation work at present is proposed to be carried out through the Union Boards and the Circle Officers. We are painfully conscious that the Union Boards unfortunately are mostly composed of self-seekers who are more interested to please the Circle Officers or the Subdivisional Officers than to serve the people of the unions. This became demonstrably clear during famine relief work when the Union Boards signally failed. This is one reason for the slow progress in rehabilitation work in this province.

Unless a total effort of the entire population of this province is harnessed it is impossible to make any progress in rehabilitation work. If effective work is desired you must have a Provincial Board consisting of representatives of all parties and groups to handle this problem, and devise ways and means. You must have local committees consisting of popular and patriotic men approved by the Provincial Board to execute this work. The colossal task of rehabilitation cannot be left to job-holders and paid officers already over-worked and over-burdened. The task is too great for them. If the present policy is continued rehabilitation work will make no progress, but on the contrary the burden of debt on this province will go on increasing and the province will be crushed under this burden and all hope even of future rehabilitation will be demolished. What is needed is co-ordination, prompt action, utmost public co-operation and a total effort but this the Government have failed to do up to now for reasons best known to them.

Before I resume my seat, I would once more warn the Ministry against their bureaucratic complacency. On reading the Budget one would feel that the Government believe that everything that should have been done has been done. If anything has been left to be done it is because of the insurmountable obstacle to setting up the requisite department. For them patriotism is a force that does not exist. Indeed conscious popular effort is to them something extremely dangerous. This attitude may please the reactionaries and keep the Ministry in office for some time, yet let me warn the Ministers that even if they disregard this side of the House there are on their side of it members who place their country above salary-earning. If

the situation is allowed to get worse through their commissions and ommissions I doubt if our European friends will be able to keep them in office. So my advice to them is to give up the out-worn bureaucratic mentality. It will not serve you a bit even if you get together all the experts in the world to help you. Take the people into your confidence. Open the prison gates and let out the patriots who can inspire them and together let them work up all the schemes in the world that you can put forward and the success of all of them is guaranteed. You will find moreover that with a contented province and its people consciously supporting you, you will be able to disregard all vested interests and job-hunters and will keep yourselves in office with much less difficulty. In a word my advice to the Ministry is to echo a well-known proverb "Go to the folk, thou dullard". (Applause from the Opposition benches.)

Mr. PATIRAM RAY: ডেপুটী স্পীকার মহোদয়! বিগত ১৬ই ফেব্রুয়ারী তারিখে বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের অর্থসচিব মহোদয় আগামী ১৯৪৫-৪৬ সালের জন্য এই হাউসে যে বাজেট উপস্থাপিত করিয়াছেন, তাহাতে সর্ব্বপ্রথম পরিলক্ষিত হয় তার ঋণভারে ভারাক্রান্ত দেহ। উড়ে ঠাকুরের হোটেলের ন্যায় আবর্জ্জনা ময়লাপূর্ণ ঘৃণ্য হোটেলকে পবিত্র হোটেল নাম দিয়ে ক্ষুধার্ত্ত মানবের মনকে যতই আকৃষ্ট করিবার চেষ্টা তিনি করিয়াছেন ততই ফটিয়া উঠিয়াছে তার ভিতরের নগ্ন, নোংরা স্বরূপ। বাঙালীকে বাঁচাইবার জন্য, বাংলার সুখ-সমৃদ্ধি বৃদ্ধি করিবার জন্য, বাংলার কৃষি-শিল্প বাণিজ্যের উন্নতি করিবার জন্য তাহার যে অভূতপূর্ব্ব চেষ্টার বাণী নিজ হাতে ঢাক পিটাইয়া তিনি নিজ মুখে প্রকাশ করিয়া বাংলার আটকোটি মানবের প্রতিনিধিবর্গকে শোনাইয়াছেন, বাস্তবক্ষেত্রে তাঁহার কার্য্যের সাক্ষ্য পাওয়া যাইবে কি না সে কথা ছাড়িয়া দিলেও এই ঋণ তাঁহার সমস্ত বাক্‌চাতুর্য্য ও তথাকথিত কর্ম্ম নৈপুণ্যের উপর কৃষ্ণবর্ণ আবরণ দিয়া দিয়াছে। ভারতের জনৈক ঋষি ঋণ করিয়া ঘি খাইবার উপদেশ দিয়াছিলেন। উত্তরকালে তিনি নাস্তিক বলিয়া অভিহিত হইয়াছেন। জানি না ভবিষ্যৎ বাংলা আমাদের এই অর্থসচিব মহোদয়কে কি নামে অভিহিত করিবেন।

এই ঋণ-সমস্যার কথা চিন্তা করিলে মনে হয় যে ঋণ করিবার আকাঙ্ক্ষা হয় দুই শ্রেণীর লোকের--(১) যাহাদের ঋণ শোধ করিবার ইচ্ছা নাই, আর (২) যারা অল্পায়ু, বেশীদিন বাঁচিবে না; কাজেই ঋণ করিয়া কিছুদিন সুখ-স্বাচ্ছন্দ্য ভোগ করার প্রবৃত্তি তাঁহাদেরই হয়, কেন না ঋণ ত শোধ করিতে হইবে না। এক্ষেত্রে জানি না আমাদের মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় কোন ধারণায় দিনের পর দিন বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টকে ঋণভারে ভারাক্রান্ত করিতেছেন। হয়ত তিনি মনে করেন "আমিত আর বেশী দিন থাকিব না কাজেই যত ঋণ হয় হউক না"।

বাংলায় আয় দেখিতেছি--

১৯৪১-৪২ সালে ৪০ কোটি ৫৪ লক্ষ ৯০ হাজার, ১৯৪২-৪৩ সালে ৪৭ কোটি ৫০ লক্ষ ১৯ হাজার, ১৯৪৩-৪৪ সালে ১২৯ কোটি ৭৬ লক্ষ ৬১ হাজার, ১৯৪৪-৪৫ সালে ২০৭ কোটি ৬২ লক্ষ ৭২ হাজার, ১৯৪৫-৪৬ সালে ১৯৯ কোটি ৪৪ লক্ষ ৯৯ হাজার।

এই যে ৫ গুণ আয় বেশী, তা সত্ত্বেও ঋণের পরিমাণ এত বেশী কেন, তাহা মন্ত্রী মহাশয় বলেন নাই। ১৯৪৬ সালের ৩১শে মার্চ্চ তারিখে সরকারী দেনার পরিমাণ দাঁড়াইবে ১৯ কোটি টাকা। এই দেনার ভিতর মাত্র ২ কোটি টাকা ফসল বাড়াইবার কাজে লাগিয়াছে। কাজেই ধরিয়া লইলাম ২ কোটি টাকার বিনিময়ে বাংলার নূতন ধান্য বেশী করিয়া উৎপন্ন হইবে। কিন্তু বাকী ১৭ কোটি টাকার দেনা এমন সমস্ত কাজে লাগিয়াছে যাহাতে নূতন কোন সম্পদ আমরা পাইব না। এই ঘাটতিতে এবং দেনায় বাংলার দেউলিয়া অবস্থার পরিচয় পাওয়া যায় এবং তার চরম দুঃস্থতাই ফুটিয়া উঠে।

এখন দেনা শোধ করিতে হইলে আয় আসিবে কোথা হইতে? বিগত কয়েক বৎসর ধরিয়া দুঃস্থ বাংলার উপর দিনের পর দিন ট্যাক্সের মাত্রা বৃদ্ধি করা হইয়াছে। এই দেনা শোধ করিতে গেলে ভবিষ্যতে গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে আর একটা অজুহাত দেখাইবার থাকিবে যে এই যে বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের ঋণ এ শোধ করার দরকার হইয়াছে, তাই আবার ট্যাক্স করিতে হইবে। কাজেই আমরা এখন মনে করিয়া লইতে পারি যে, এই যে দেনা দেখান হইতেছে এর জন্য এই দুঃস্থ বাংলার ঘাড়ে আবার নূতন করিয়া করভার চাপান হইবে, এটা তার পূর্ব্ব সূচনা।

বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের সরবরাহ বিভাগ খাদ্য-সরবরাহ ব্যবসায়ে লোকসান দিয়াছে মোট ২২ কোটি টাকা—১৯৪৩-৪৪ ও ১৯৪৪-৪৫ এই দুই বছরে ১৭ কোটি টাকা, আর আগামী বৎসরে ৫॥ কোটি টাকা হইবে। এত লোকসানের বরাদ্দ কেন ধরিতে হয়? ১৯৪৩ সালে বেশী দরে চাউল কিনিয়া ১৯৪৪ সালে কম দরে বিক্রয় কিছু হইয়াছিল সত্য। তার অর্থ বাংলা সরকার এই চাউল যাদের ঘরে মজুত ছিল সেই মজুতদারদের মাল বাজেয়াপ্ত

করিতে পারেন নাই। চোরা কারবারীর নিকটে হইতে চোরাবাজারের দর দিয়া চাউল কিনিয়াছিলেন। ১৯৪৪ সালে বাজারে চাউল প্রতি মণ ৯৲ টাকা পর্য্যন্ত নামিয়াছিল, অথচ সরকারী রেশন দোকানে ১৬।০ আনা দরে বিক্রয় হইয়াছে। তদসত্ত্বেও লোকসান পূরণ করা যায় নাই কেন? সরকারী এজেন্টরা সরকারের নিকট ১২৲ টাকা-১৩৲ টাকা করিয়া বিক্রয় করিয়াছে। কিন্তু সরকার যদি ব্যবসায়ীর নিকট হইতে না কিনিয়া সরাসরি কৃষকদের নিকট হইতে কিনিতেন তাহা হইলে এত টাকা খরচ হইত না। মজুতদারকে না ধরিয়া, মজুতদারের নিকট হইতে চাউল কিনিয়া সরবরাহ করার ফলে সরকারী তহবিলে ২২॥ কোটি টাকা লোকসান হইয়াছে এবং সেইজন্য আজ সারা বাংলার ঘাড়ে ১৯ কোটি টাকা দেনা।

বাংলার এই সরবরাহ বিভাগ আরম্ভ করা হইয়াছিল বাংলার দুঃস্থ, নিপীড়িত দরিদ্র পল্লীবাসীর সুখ-সুবিধার জন্য, ভাল খাওয়া এবং ভাল পরার যোগাড় করিয়া দেওয়া হইবে বলিয়া। অথচ দেখা যাইতেছে বাংলার সুখ-সুবিধা দূরের কথা এই সরবরাহ বিভাগ খোলার পর হইতে বাংলার দুঃখ-দারিদ্র্য, অভাব-অনটন দিন দিন বাড়িয়া চলিয়াছে। এই বিভাগ খুলিয়া বাংলার সুখ-স্বাচ্ছন্দ্য বৃদ্ধি করা ত দূরের কথা, যদি তাহা পূর্ব্বৎ বজায় রাখা না যায় তাহা হইলে আমি বলিতে চাই যে এই বিভাগ রাখার আবশ্যকতা কি? এই সরবরাহ বিভাগের উচ্চতম কর্ম্মচারী হইতে নিম্নতম কর্ম্মচারী পর্য্যন্ত যেরূপ ঘুষ লইতেছে এবং প্রত্যেক জায়গায় যেরূপ ঘুষ, যেরূপ জুয়াচুরি কারবার চলিয়াছে তাহা অকথ্য। আমরা দেখিয়াছি বাংলার পল্লীতে অনেক ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের প্রেসিডেণ্ট ছিলেন যারা বরাবর ভাল লোক বলিয়া জানা ছিল, চুরির কোন কলঙ্ক কোন দিন তাঁহাদের উপর ছিল না, আজ এই সাপ্লাই বিভাগ খোলার পর হইতে দেখা যায় যে তাঁহাদের ঘুষ খাওয়া চরমে উঠিয়াছে। যে বিভাগে বাংলার সুখ-শান্তি বৃদ্ধি না করিয়া ঘুষ এবং অনাচার-অত্যাচারের মাত্রা বৃদ্ধি হয় সেই বিভাগকে বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট অবিলম্বে বন্ধ করিয়া দিন। এই সঙ্গে তার আর একটি মিত্র বিভাগ আছে--সেটা জুট ডিপার্টমেণ্ট বলিয়া কথিত। এই বিভাগও ঐ একইভাবে তার মিত্র সরবরাহ বিভাগের যোগাযোগে অত্যাচার-উপদ্রবের মাত্রা বাড়াইয়া দিয়াছে। এই দুই বিভাগই অবিলম্বে তুলিয়া দেওয়া হউক।

দুর্ভিক্ষ এবং মহামারী বাংলার গত দুই বৎসরের প্রধান ঘটনা। প্রাদেশিক রাজকোষ হইতে এই বড় দুর্য্যোগে যে সামান্য পরিমাণ অর্থ ব্যয় করা হইয়াছে তাহা প্রাদেশিক মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর পক্ষে রীতিমত কলঙ্কের বিষয়। এই ব্যয়ে মোট ১,৮০,০০০ দুঃস্থকে রিলিফ দেওয়া হইয়াছে। যেখানে দুর্ভিক্ষে মরিয়াছে প্রায় ৪০ লক্ষ লোক সেখানে এই ব্যয় যে কত সামান্য তাহা প্রত্যেকে বিবেচনা করিবেন। চলতি বৎসরে ২৬৮টি কর্ম্মকেন্দ্র, ৬৭টি দুঃস্থ-নিবাস এবং ৮৮টি শিশু-মঙ্গল আছে, এইগুলি তুলিয়া দিয়া ৬০টি কেন্দ্রীয় দুঃস্থ-নিবাস খোলার ব্যবস্থা হইয়াছে। ইহাতে কত লোকের ব্যবস্থা হইতে পারিবে তাহা অর্থ সচিব মহাশয় বলেন নাই--অনুমান ৬,০০০ লোকের হইতে পারে, তার বেশী নয়। অর্থাৎ প্রতি ১০০ জন দুঃস্থের ভিতরে মাত্র ১ জনের ব্যবস্থা হইবে, অবশিষ্ট ৯৯ জনের কি হইবে? কি করিয়া তাহারা দুঃস্থ জীবন সুস্থ করিবে তাহা বুঝিতে পারি না।

মহামারীর বিরুদ্ধে জনস্বাস্থ্যের জন্য যে ব্যবস্থা হইয়াছে তাহাতেও ঐ একই রকম ছবি দেখা যায়। রোগীর চিকিৎসার জন্য ১০০-বেড সমেত ৫২টি হাসপাতাল, ৫০-বেড সমেত ৯২টি এবং ৪৪১-বেড সমেত ২০টি হাসপাতাল খোলা হইয়াছে। অর্থাৎ এই সব সরকারী হাসপাতালে এক সময়ে মোট ২৯,৬২০ জন রোগীর ব্যবস্থা হইতে পারে। শুধু মাত্র কলিকাতায় মহামারীগ্রস্ত রোগীর সংখ্যা যখন ২ লক্ষ তখন সারা বাংলার জন্য মাত্র সাড়ে উনত্রিশ হাজার লোকের হাসপাতাল খুলিয়া বাংলার অর্থ সচিব বাহাদুরী লইতে চাহিয়াছেন।

ইহার পর "ফসল বাড়াও" এই আন্দোলনের জন্য ১৯৪৩-৪৪ সালে ব্যয় হইয়াছে ১ কোটি টাকা; ১৯৪৪-৪৫ সালে ব্যয় হইয়াছে ১ কোটি ১২ লক্ষ টাকা, ১৯৪৫-৪৬ সালে বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে ৭৭ হাজার টাকা। এই সামান্য টাকা বাস্তবক্ষেত্রে ব্যয় না হইয়া অধিকাংশই যাইবে কর্ম্মচারীদের বেতনে। আমরা দেখিতে পাই যে ঐ টাকা আসলে ফসল বাড়ানোর কাজে ব্যয় যত না হউক কর্ম্মচারী পুষিতেই সমস্ত টাকা ব্যয় হইয়া যায়।

(At this stage the House adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Dr. SANAULLAH: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I don't propose to take up much of the valuable time of the House, but I wish to bring out one fact prominently before the honourable members. In season and out of season we have been talking of corruption and corruption and nothing else. How are we to deal with corruption and how are we to get rid of corruption? In the Hon'ble Minister's Budget we find there is no provision made for any religious education, not to speak of any special grant to madrasahs which

impart religious education. We know that the appointing authorities look down upon candidates who possess honesty and who have got a religious trend of mind. I know as a fact—and in this my honourable friend Mr. S. Islam will bear me out—that when a young Muslim with beard appeared before an appointing authority, he was simply dismissed because he looked older than his age. That was his disqualification. I think that representations were made to the authorities concerned in this connection, but with what result I do not know. It is a plain fact that the appointing authorities apparently want so-called smart and dishonest men. Where can we find honest men for our administrative services? With the meagre income which the provincial service men are getting, they cannot make an honest living. They must have recourse to bribes. They cannot but have recourse to bribery and other corrupt practices. In order to combat that idea, we shall have to disabuse our mind and publicly declare that there is no distinction between private character and public character of a man. The distinction that is sought to be drawn between private character and public character is a satanic division and is a misconception. How can a man who could not save his soul from eternal perdition save others? Therefore a man who does not possess integrity and honesty in his personal character cannot be trusted with any public office whatsoever. That should be the criterion applied in the selection of personnel for administrative posts. This satanic distinction like western culture has been ingrained in our minds and is trotted out in season and out of season. We are told "you must not mix up public character with private character, you are not concerned with my personal character, that is a matter concerning only myself; whatever I like I may do in the secrecy of my private chamber and with that you are not concerned; you are simply concerned with my public life". That is a satanic division. We must once for all disabuse our mind of that and publicly say that we do not make any differentiation or distinction between private and public character of a man. Then and then alone we can hope for some silver lining in the midst of these darkening clouds. Otherwise we shall be involved in a rather vicious circle. There will be corruption beginning from the Hon'ble Minister down to the village chowkidar and there is corruption. I can say without any fear of contradiction that 99 per cent. of the police officers are corrupt. I am not in the least exaggerating the position. If any of the Hon'ble Ministers want to know how far my statement is true, they may go out incognito and see for themselves how rampant are bribery and corruption. If they come with me, I can show them what their police are doing. Every evening in the Sealdah market, they collect one orange from every vendor. The vendors are afraid of refusing them because once they get into the bad books of the police, they will be finished. So, I emphasise this fact we should disabuse our mind of the distinction drawn between public and private life. If a man is good in his private life, he must be a good man in his public life as well and we should be prepared to support him. But all persons of doubtful character in private life we should boycot. In fine, Sir, let me present the present Ministry the famous Persian poem:—

گربہ میر و سگ و زیر و موش را دیوان کند
ایں چنیں ارکان دولت ملک را ویران کند

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, there will be two more opportunities for this House to discuss the estimates that are before us—first, on the occasion of the discussion and voting of the supplementary budget and secondly when demands for grants are moved in respect of the Budget for the coming year. I shall therefore on this occasion be somewhat brief at the fag end of the day. In the first instance, I shall deal with a minor point raised during the debates. There was a complaint about the form of the Civil estimates and the Red Book having been

changed. As I explained briefly in my budget statement, that change is only in appearance. It was made only with a view to paper economy; and I submit that a glance through the pages of the Red Book will show that full details have been furnished. The change in form has been secured solely by compression of printed matter, and no relevant detail or explanation has been omitted or abridged. As a matter of fact, Sir, when I was told about the proposed change of form, I apprehended not that there would be less useful materials in these publications but that the compression of printing might be inconvenient for members.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What has been the saving?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Saving in terms of money has been very little but in quantity of paper there has been much saving. I myself saw the Red Book and the Blue Book just a week before they were made available to honourable members and to my great satisfaction found the compression and reduced size had not caused inconvenience in reading. Sir, that is a somewhat minor point.

The House naturally was anxious for more light on the "trading losses" in the Civil Supplies Department. I believe there was an expression of opinion from all sides of the House that these trading lossess should be more fully explained. I shall not usurp the function of my honourable colleague, the Minister for Civil Supplies, and try to explain everything for the simple reason that he is far more competent to do it than I am, and also because, he would inevitably have to answer these questions during the next four weeks. I will just refer to one thing. I have stated that the Government of India have as recently as last January offered to share our trading losses and their proposal is that they should go 50-50 with us. The implications of that proposal are still under discussion and that is why I was not more explicit about it. When the Hon'ble Member in charge of Food in the Government of India came here in January, he proposed to discuss it with the authority of the Central Finance Department. Now it will be agreed that the Government of India must have counted their costs in going to share with us and I think that by itself is a guarantee that they were not very much in the way of losses through negligence. Sir, I have from time to time received figures of losses and I am free to confess that sometimes I have been perturbed by the figures, but if we consider the losses due to subsidized food and deliberate devaluation of stocks, the balance is comparatively small and bears a small proportion to the amounts involved in the trading operations. I believe I am right in saying that the losses due to deterioration or losses during transit amount to somewhere between five and ten per cent.——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: They are not included at all.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: They are included; undoubtedly, they are included in the trading losses. The amounts look colossal; a loss of three crores may sound fantastic, but when it relates to outlays of seventy or eighty crores it does not amount to very great mishandling of the trading operations. As I said earlier, I shall leave to my Hon'ble friend, Mr. Suhrawardy, to explain in greater detail the losses in the trading operations.

I shall now come to a matter to which my honourable friend, Mr. Gladding, devoted the greater part of his speech. I am grateful to him not merely for having put forward the suggestion that more assistance should be forthcoming from the Centre but also for having given some valuable suggestions.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What about Mr. Walker?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, I would like again to repeat that financial allocation of revenues between the Centre and the province has been very inequitable. It has operated to the detriment of Bengal because while the Niemeyer Report itself takes account of the fact that the large population of Bengal complicates her financial problem, there is no evidence in the Award itself that they have taken this fact into serious consideration in making their Award. In fact, what is the position? The position is that Bombay is able to spend and has been for some time able to spend more than double of what we have been able to spend per head of population in social services like Education, Sanitation, etc.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: They have not got a Premier's House there as here.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: The population factor has certainly complicated our position. Now, it is often said that Bengal has not taxed herself. My honourable friend, Mr. Gladding, reminded me of a portion of the Hon'ble Sir Jeremy Raisman's speech in the Central Assembly last year when he said that he had no sympathy for a Finance Minister who would not tax his people. Sir, in broad principle I accept that. But I deny, deny very firmly, that Bengal has not taxed herself. After all, here we have an incidence of statistics, and where apologies lie, it is often trotted out that the *per capita* incidence of taxation in Bengal is very much lower than, say, in Bombay, it is probably the lowest among the major provinces in India. But that is no indication of the burden of taxation on the people. Sir, there are well-known scientific methods of calculating the burden or what Economists would call the severity of taxation. It is obvious that with such a large population a larger proportion of people would be below the taxable capacity and in the figures I have worked out I find that there is only one other province where the burden of taxation is heavier than in Bengal, namely, Madras; and I think in Madras this is due to the particular way in which one tax is operating. There may be other contributory factors. I have not yet got any of the provincial budgets for 1945-46; I think even when the 1945-46 figures are obtained it will be found that Madras alone is ahead of Bengal in the matter of burden of taxation. I believe this; I say this on the floor of the House for the simple reason that propaganda has been sedulously carried on at the Centre that Bengal has failed to tax herself. This may appear to be a somewhat odd thing to say, especially during Budget discussions for a man who happens at the moment to hold the position of the Finance Minister of the Province; for obviously one in my place has to look out for further augmentation of the revenues and therefore for the strengthening of the case for Bengal. But justice demands that we should look at the picture as a whole.

It is possible that we may be able to do something with the Sales Tax without violating our basic policy of not taxing the essentials of life. The Sales Tax is a most wonderful tax. I do not know who invented it. I have not seen it attributed to any particular individual but it came into existence immediately after the last war; and in Soviet Russia—the last figures know about the Budget of Soviet Russia are for 1937—nearly 80 per cent. of the total revenues that year came out of the turn-over tax which is basically the same as our Sales Tax. That tax has great possibilities.

Now, Sir, I feel that we have made out as strong a case as possible for assistance from the Centre. Mr. Gladding wants to be assured that we have reduced all our arguments to paper. Words, figures, charts, graphs have all been pressed into service in our representation to the Government of India. I shall only differ from him in one slight respect. Mr. Gladding looks to Sir Archibald Rowlands to save us. Well, I know Sir Archibald Rowlands, when he assumes his high office in Delhi, with a first hand knowledge of the conditions in Bengal, will probably be in a better position

to judge our case, but I do not see any reason why the present Finance Member, Sir Jeremy Raisman, should not be able really to appreciate the problems of Bengal. It may however be that Sir Jeremy Raisman is very busy just now and that before he quits office he may not have time to fully study our case.

Mr. D. N. Sen thought that I had been asking for Just another *ex gratia* grant. Sir, I am not doing that. I have already indicated in my Budget Speech and I have also indicated this evening the way my mind has been been working in approaching this question. It may be that in a settlement which will be considered fair to Bengal there will have to be an element of direct subvention, but that is not exactly what I really want. I want a comprehensive settlement. I want Bengal to be assisted to a position from which she will be able to face the post-war world with greater confidence.

I was asked by the Hon'ble Leader of the European Party "What about your post-war plans?" Sir, it is true that our post-war plans are not ready yet, and this is not surprising at all. The departments concerned mainly with post-war planning have been overwhelmed with work during the last two years and the Government of India have allowed us time up to the end of April. It is no use sending plans which are immature or ill-considered. The Post-War Reconstruction Department is a co-ordinating department. Plans come from other departments relating to their own activities; they have to be vetted by the Post-War Reconstruction Department. I do not think there has been any undue delay in the preparation of these plans. It may be said that Bombay had her plans ready. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: All provinces.) Bombay is at a greater advantage compared to us. Bombay's industrial planning was there already. She had only to expand her notions about industrial advancement. I have read their official report to the Government of India and I am not sure that their plans are so very wonderful. I think it would be wiser for us to send plans really suited to the conditions of Bengal. I do not want to say much on that item this evening because the Hon'ble Minister in charge will probably on another occasion enlighten the House more fully.

Sir, I have nearly finished. I cannot accept the sweeping remarks about the wholesale corruption amongst our officers although it is quite possible that with the large number of temporary officers who have been appointed there have been some elements of corruption. It must be realised that in the execution of many of our plans there are large number of non-officials associated with our officers, and what has happened as a result of the war, as a result of the inflation is the stimulation of the profit incentive. I think the impact of that has been very serious both on the movable of the people and on the social life, as we all know. That is undoubtedly true, but that was to some extent unavoidable in a province where there has been large war expenditure and where therefore the effect of the inflation was so great. Inflation means that new money is unevenly distributed it spreads unevenly new purchasing power created by Government for their own purpose, and I can only hope that we shall emerge from this great convulsion, somewhat shaken but more firmly resolved to make our own special difficulties our opportunities. That is my hope. I am not very pessimistic. Our Budget may seem somewhat gloomy but it is not an impossible budget.

Mr. Gladding quoted certain remarks of the Hon'ble Sir Jeremy Raisman about the financial position of Bengal. He said from the figures disclosed Bengal does not show a state of bankruptcy. I have never said that Bengal shows any symptoms of bankruptcy. All I say is that due to the uneven impact of the war on the different provinces, Bengal has been, through no fault of her own, placed in a position which is inferior, financially and economically, to that of the other major provinces.

Sir, the hour is late and I hope honourable members will go back home and go to sleep with the feeling that after all things are not so bad in Bengal and that there is the cause for hope of redemption. (Applause from Coalition benches.)

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-30 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Wednesday, the 28th February, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 28th February, 1945, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 13 Hon'ble Ministers and 168 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

(Supplementaries to Starred question No. 76 held over from the 27th February, 1945.)

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us when this question was received by his department for answer?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: 11th of February, 1943.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether he thinks that it is too small a time to get a report about Bibhuti Bhusan Bhattacharya?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not follow what the honourable member means by "too small a time".

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us when does he expect the report about Bibhuti Bhusan Bhattacharya?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot say when the report is expected, but if the honourable member desires that the matter should be expedited, that can be done.

Security prisoner Mr. Prafulla Chandra Chakravarty suffering from eye troubles.

*77. **Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that Mr. Prafulla Chandra Chakravarty of Comilla town, at present a security prisoner detained in the Rajshahi Central Jail, has lost one of his eyes from an attack of optic atrophy and the other eye has also been threatened; and

(*ii*) that the Superintendent of the Rajshahi Central Jail has strongly recommended on medical ground for his release and in the alternative for his transfer to the Calcutta Medical College for proper treatment?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the date when the recommendation has been made; and

(*ii*) whether any action has up to this time been taken on the recommendation?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of releasing him without any further delay?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*)(*i*) My information is that the prisoner is suffering from partial atrophy of the left eye with paralysis of the left external rectus muscle of the eyeball with the result that his vision of the left eye is almost lost. The vision of his right eye is normal.

(*ii*) and (*b*) (*i*) The Jail Superintendent never recommended his release but recommended his transfer to a Calcutta jail for better medical arrangements and that on the 8th December, 1944.

(*ii*) Orders have already been issued to get the prisoner transferred to the Presidency Jail, Calcutta.

(*c*) No.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether he has already been transferred to the Presidency Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether his treatment has already begun or not?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He was getting his treatment there, but I do not know whether he has been transferred to the Presidency Jail already or not, for which question I have already asked for notice.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us the exact date on which the order was passed for his transfer?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: On the 17th January, 1945.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is not the policy of Government to release prisoners on medical grounds?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sometimes releases are made on medical grounds, but in this case, there is no justification for release.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Does not the Hon'ble Minister think that if the prisoner is set at liberty, he can look after the treatment of his lost eye as far as possible and also look after the protection of his other eye?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in such cases the question of release is determined or decided upon on the reports of the Jail Superintendent alone?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The reports of the Medical Board and the Jail Superintendent are always taken into consideration by Government when determining the question of release on medical grounds.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Since the Hon'ble Minister has replied that the Jail Superintendent did not recommend his release, did Government consider the desirability of having the matter further examined by the Medical Board?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. That question never arose, because his health or rather his life was never in jeopardy.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is it the Government's policy that unless the life of the prisoner is in jeopardy, there will be no question of release taken up?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is one of the criteria.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government consider the desirability of having his eye examined by a Medical Board or by other medical authorities with a view to come to a decision as to whether the release of the prisoner will facilitate the treatment of his eye?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He was given the best treatment available locally. Now he has been transferred to a Calcutta Jail and the best treatment that can be given to anybody would be given to him.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who was the eye expert and under whose treatment he was kept so long?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state under which expert he is going to be placed now?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot say that. But certainly the eye specialists who examine the security prisoners will examine this prisoner also.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of ascertaining from the Jail authority as to whether the treatment of the security prisoner will be better in the hospital or it will be better if he is set at liberty and goes to a change?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That can be ascertained.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he will consider the desirability of allowing the patient to get himself treated by a doctor of his own choice at Government cost?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot answer that question offhand, but if any representation to that effect is made, Government can consider that question.

Death of Pitambar Mandal, a political prisoner.

*78. **Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Pitambar Mandal of village Tepukharia, district Dinajpur, a political prisoner of Balurghat case lodged in the Rajshahi Central Jail, died on the 16th November, 1944, in the Jail Hospital?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what was the nature of his disease;

(*ii*) when it was first detected;

(*iii*) when it was considered serious;

(*iv*) when he was transferred to hospital;

(*v*) whether the relations were informed, if so, when;

(*vi*) why he was not transferred to Calcutta for treatment by a specialist; and

(*vii*) whether the Jail Authorities took any steps for his release, if so, when?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) Tuberculosis of the lungs.

(*ii*) and (*iv*) On the 3rd October, 1944.

(*iii*) On the 21st October, 1944.

(*v*) Yes, on the 21st October, 1944.

(*vi*) Arrangement was made for the prisoner's transfer to Suri Jail in accordance with the provision of rule 1242 of the Bengal Jail Code, Volume I (7th Edition), a copy of which is in the Library. But the transfer could not be effected as he was not fit for travel.

(*vii*) No, prisoners in danger of death from sickness due to *infectious* disease are not eligible for premature release under Jail Code Rules 591 and 592.

Shooting of a villager at Manianda in Tippera district by a foreigner.

*79. **Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that one Jagabandhu Sen of village Manianda, police-station Kasba, in the district of Tippera, received a gunshot wound on the 17th of October, 1944, at a place close to Paghachang railway station in the subdivision of Brahmanbaria, from the gun of an American soldier; and

(*ii*) that he died on the same date?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken to place the offender under trial?

(*c*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that the name of offender has been brought to the notice of the District Magistrate; and

(*ii*) that the widow of the deceased Jagabandhu Sen has petitioned to the District Magistrate for grant of a lump compensation and for monthly allowance for the family?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what compensation, if any, has been allowed and what monthly allowance has been granted?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*)(*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) He died on the 18th October, 1944.

(*b*) Police investigation is still proceeding in conjunction with the Administrative Commandant, Tajgaon.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The matter has been taken up with the U.S.A. Army authorities.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether the investigation has been completed by this time?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us what was the reason for this delay in the completion of the investigation when, as a matter of fact, the name of the person from whose gunshot the person died was made known to the District Magistrate immediately after?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The name was left by the party of soldiers, but it has to be verified, and therefore a reference has been made to the Administrative Commandant, Tajgaon.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why so much delay has been caused in investigating into the complaint, that is, three to four months?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There has not been any unusual delay. The person who was injured was taken to a hospital at Agartala and the news of his death was not received in due course. There was some delay in the receipt of the news as the matter had to be taken up again with the Army authorities.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: In view of the fact that the name was made known to the authorities immediately after and was known on the 17th October who actually caused the death, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why there was delay in the matter of investigation?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already replied that the name was not known. The name was left by a party of soldiers there with the station master or the assistant station master, but that name has to be verified.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the British Court is competent to try any such case?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: In view of answer (*d*) that the matter has been taken up with the U. S. A. Army authorities, are we to understand that the Government of Bengal have forwarded their recommendations to the U. S. A. Army authorities asking for compensation?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether compensation will be paid by the U. S. A. authorities or the British authorities?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: U. S. A. authorities.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of Bengal has formulated its demand so far as the amount of compensation is concerned?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Who is the assessing authority?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The District Magistrate.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: What is the amount that has been recommended by the Government of Bengal to the U. S. A. authority?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The District Magistrate has suggested a lump sum grant of Rs. 1,000 or in the alternative a pension of Rs. 50 per month. The Hon'ble Chief Minister who went through the file was of he opinion that the amount of the lump sum grant is not proportionate to the amount of monthly pension recommended and he has specially instructed the department to re-examine the case and to suggest a larger amount as a lump sum grant.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Did the Government of Bengal get hold of any precedents in such cases for compensation?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Did the Government of Bengal consult the International Law authorities outside India asking for information for the guidance of assessing compensation in such cases?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know. I would ask for notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the hon'ble member be pleased to consider the desirability of instructing the Government of Bengal for asking for such information from outside India as may be available?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know whether it has already been done, but I feel there is no necessity for that.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of making an advance to the widow in anticipation of a grant that will be made by the U. S. Army authorities?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government can consider that matter.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether the U. S. A. authorities are under compulsion to accept the recommendation of the British authorities?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There is no question of compulsion.

Grant of family allowance to security prisoners.

*80. **Miss MIRA DUTTA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the following security prisoners applied several times for the maintenance allowance for their dependants and, if so, whether they have been granted any allowance, and if not, why not:—

(*i*) Sj. Basanta Kumar Das—Presidency Jail,
(*ii*) Sj. Jiban Kumar Ghatak—Rajshahi Jail,
(*iii*) Sj. Promatha Nath Banerjee—Rajshahi Jail,
(*iv*) Sj. Amar Gopal Nandi, M.A.—Dum Dum Jail,
(*v*) Sj. Bhupendra Nath Bhattacharyya—Faridpur Jail,
(*vi*) Sj. Satindra Nath Neogi—Alipore Central Jail, and
(*vii*) Sj. Radhika Mohan Das—Presidency Jail;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that all of the said prisoners were earning, when at large and contributing towards the maintenance of their families and dependants; and

(*c*) whether it is a fact that their families and dependants have been deprived of their help these prisoners were rendering out of their earning?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Yes; family allowances have been sanctioned in all the cases excepting that of Babu Satindra Nath Neogi as he had no income being a mere student at the time of his arrest and is unmarried and his father is earning.

(*b*) and (*c*) Yes, excepting Babu Satindra Nath Neogy referred to in (*a*) above.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the amount of allowance granted to each of the security prisoners?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Basanta Kumar Das was originally granted an allowance of Rs. 30 per month. It has since been enhanced to Rs. 60 per month. Mr. Jiban Kumar Ghatak was first sanctioned Rs. 20 per month which was subsequently raised to Rs. 35 and it was again enhanced to Rs. 40 per month. Mr. Promatha Nath Banarjee was originally granted Rs. 25 per month. It has been increased to Rs. 35 per month. Mr. Amar Gopal Nandi is granted Rs. 30 per month. Bhupendra Nath Bhattacharyya was originally granted Rs. 10 per month and it has now been increased to Rs. 20 per month. Satindra Nath Neogi has not been granted any allowance. Radhika Mohan Das was originally granted Rs. 60 per month. He has now been granted Rs. 75 per month.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will it be possible for the Hon'ble Minister to give the number of dependents of each of these prisoners?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Sj. Basanta Kumar Das has four sons and his wife to maintain and he is paying Rs. 20 towards house rent?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have not got the particulars before me now. So I cannot reply.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will it be possible for the Hon'ble Minister to give us the amount which he was earning before his arrest?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that Rs. 60 is not adequate for the maintenance of five dependents, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to further increase his allowance to Rs. 125 which he was earning before his arrest?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: As I have no particulars before me regarding the number of dependents I cannot answer that question and secondly I want to point out that the case of this prisoner, Basanta Kumar Das, was examined and in accordance with the liberal policy adopted by this Government the amount sanctioned previously was increased by hundred per cent.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Jiban Kumar Ghatak has got six or seven dependents to maintain and Promatha Nath Banarjee has got six dependents to maintain?

Khan Bahadur MOHMMED ALI: I have already stated that I do not know the number of dependents of these prisoners. So far as Jiban Kumar Ghatak is concerned, he was originally granted Rs. 20, which was increased to Rs. 35 and his case was again considered and a further enhancement of Rs. 5 was granted. The amount of family allowance now granted to this prisoner is Rs. 40 per month. Promatha Nath Banarjee was originally granted Rs. 25. It has been increased to Rs. 35 per month now.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to reconsider his case because he has got to maintain six dependents, namely, his wife, three daughters, one son and an old mother?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Whatever may be the number of dependents Government are aware of the particulars and therefore all these cases were considered in the light of materials available to Government and enhancements have been granted in all these cases of security prisoners.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that U. N. Bhattacharyya is the eldest son and the only earning member of the family, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to reconsider his case and further increase his allowance because he has to maintain his old mother, wife, one daughter and minor sisters and brothers?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: All these cases were taken into consideration by Government when sanctioning increments?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who gave the information that Satindra Nath Neogi was not earning before his arrest?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That transpired as a result of the enquiry.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that Satindra Nath Neogi was earning and supporting the family, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to reconsider his case and grant a family allowance to him?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Information of Government is otherwise. The information is that he was only a student. When he was arrested he was not earning anything and therefore no allowance was sanctioned in his case.

Damage to Feni School Supply Agency caused by enemy air raids.

***81. Mr. SATYAPRIYA BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether he is aware that a shop named Feni School Supply Agency (dealers in school and college text-books and stationery articles) belonging jointly to Sjs. Dhirendra Kumar Majumdar and Sourindra Kishore Dutta Chowdhury, security prisoners detained in Dum Dum Central Jail, was burnt down by Japanese air raid on the 1st April, 1943;

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that this was brought to the notice of the Government by petition to the Chief Minister in May, 1943, followed by reminders in July, 1943, on 18th October, 1943, 29th November, 1943, and 4th March, 1944, and by petition to the Deputy Secretary on 21st January, 1944, and 4th March, 1944, as also to the District Magistrate, Noakhali, on May and July, 1943, and on 18th October, 1943, and 29th November, 1943;

(*iii*) whether he is aware that the damage claimed in the petitions was to the extent of Rs.9,935 and that the damage has told heavily upon the financial condition of the families of both the security prisoners mentioned above;

(*iv*) whether any enquiry has been made by the Government to ascertain the extent of the damage sustained by the owners of the shop and the effect thereof on the financial condition of the families of the owners of the shop; and

(*v*) whether the owners of the shop have been informed by the District Magistrate of Noakhali by a memorandum, dated 26th February, 1944, that the payment of the compensation is under consideration of Government?

(*b*) If the answers to (*a*) be in the affirmative, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to expedite the payment of compensation?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): I have nothing to add to what I stated on the 23rd November, 1944, on the floor of this House in reply to starred question No. 38 by the honourable member, Mr. Harendra Kumar Sur, M.L.A.

Supply of meal to passengers of Jagannathganj to Serajganj Ferry Steamer.

***82. Mr. MAQBUL HOSSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce, Labour and Industries (Marine) Department be pleased to state whether he is aware that the ferry steamer running from Jagannathganj to Serajganj, carrying Surma Mail passengers is not supplying meal to the civil passengers of third and inter-class of that steamer?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what step do the Government propose to take for removing this difficulty of the 3rd and inter-class civil passengers?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE, LABOUR and INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. K. Shahabuddin): (*a*) No. On the contrary, I am informed that 211 and 287 plates of curry and rice were served to 3rd and inter-class passengers in November, 1944, and December, 1944, respectively. Bread and butter, eggs and tea are also supplied to all classes of passengers.

(*b*) Does not arise.

F. R. E. Hospitals in Goalundo and the staff employed in the hospitals.

***83. Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health (Medical) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many relief hospitals are now working in the subdivision of Goalundo in the district of Faridpur;

(*b*) what are the staff including menials that have been employed to work in such hospitals;

(*c*) what is the number of such employees in each category; and

(*d*) how many of them are—

(*i*) Muslims;

(*ii*) members of the Scheduled Castes of Hindus; and

(*iii*) others?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) Eighteen.

(*b*) to (*d*) A statement is laid on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to clauses (b) to (d) of starred question No. 83.

Staff.	Total.	Muslim.	Scheduled caste.	Others.
Doctors ..	25	3	2	20
Compounders ..	18	2	1	15
Clerks ..	6	0	1	5
Nurses ..	104	36	6	62
Menials ..	152	42	54	56

Opening of F. R. E. Hospital at Busail, district Mymensingh.

***84. Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department aware of the fact—

(*i*) that at Busail in the subdivision of Tangail, district Mymensingh, some buildings have been made purported to be a destitute hospital;

(*ii*) that buildings were complete by the latter part of August, 1944; and

(*iii*) that as yet the hospital has not been started?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government have given up the idea of opening the hospital there?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

(*d*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the hospital is going to be started?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) The hospital will be started as soon as the necessary staff and equipment are secured.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when this proposal of starting a hospital at Busail was submitted by the Subdivisional Officer of Tangail?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want notice about the actual date.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when it was accepted by the Government?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The proposal for starting the hospital has been accepted by the Government, but I cannot give the date.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: I give the information that it was started in January. Now, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for this delay?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Government could not get suitable staff and necessary equipments for the hospital.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Medical Officer of the charitable dispensary at Busail was appointed long before as Medical Officer of that hospital?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Only the Medical Officer will not do. There are other staffs necessary, such as, nurses and menials.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the materials necessary for starting the hospital was sent to Busail in the month of September?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Yes, Sir, materials were sent but, as I have already stated, the entire staff was not available there.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the hospital has been started but no nurses have as yet been appointed?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Some nurses have been appointed by this time.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many nurses have been appointed?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want notice.

Provincialisation of Sadar and Subdivisional Hospitals.

*85. **Dr. SANAULLAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government (Medical) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the reasons for provincialisation of the Sadar and Subdivisional Hospitals in Municipal areas of Bengal;

(*ii*) who used to administer and control these hospitals before provincialisation;

(*iii*) if by executive committees, who were the members of these executive committees;

(*iv*) who will administer and control them after provincialisation;

(*v*) what special improvements the Government intend to make after provincialisation;

(*vi*) whether such improvements could not be made by the pre-provincialisation authorities;

(*vii*) if not, why not;

(*viii*) whether it was due to financial difficulties; and

(*ix*) if so, whether the Government could not provide more funds to these authorities?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the District Boards which are mainly concerned with rural areas are being compelled to contribute their usual quota of annual contributions after these hospitals, situated in municipal areas, have been taken over by Government as Government hospitals under the direct control of the Civil Surgeons and the Surgeon-General?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the reasons therefor?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many such hospitals have been provincialised up to November, 1944;

(*ii*) how many yet remain to be provincialised;

(*iii*) what are their names;

(*iv*) the dates of provincialisation; and

(*v*) what improvements, if any, have been effected in those already provincialised?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*)(*i*), (*vi*) to (*ix*) At a time when demand for hospital accommodation for treatment was daily increasing as a result of famine conditions in Bengal, the Sadar and Subdivisional Hospitals had deteriorated to the lowest level of efficiency and usefulness. Most of the hospitals were dirty and out of repairs, their staff inefficient and in arrears of pay, their stock of medicines and equipment inadequate, their furniture broken, missing and rusty. Complaints were received by Government from different quarters about the deplorable condition of the hospitals. Lack of funds was no doubt the main cause of their deterioration. It was considered that grants-in-aid made to local bodies would not enable them to effect the necessary improvement. Large sums of money were required for this purpose and Government were prepared to advance the rquisite amount; and it was considered desirable that they should take over their control and administration from the hands of the Managing Committees as a temporary measure, the Managing Committees continuing to function as advisory bodies. As local bodies have no supervising and inspecting staff they could not be expected to effect such improvement as is contemplated to be done under Government management even though the funds were placed at their disposal.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) In the case of class III hospitals the local authorities concerned or the Managing Committee appointed by it and in the case of class IV or V hospitals the Manager or the Managing Committee nominated by the proprietor or supporters.

(*iv*) The Surgeon-General with the Government of Bengal through the Civil Surgeons.

(*v*) Proper repairs to buildings, supply of adequate drugs and other medical requisites, repairing or replacing broken furniture or equipments, maintenance of an adequate staff, better control and more efficient management, etc.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Because people from rural areas still resort to these hospitals and there is nothing in the change of management to justify any District Board discontinuing its usual contribution.

(*d*)(*i*) to (*iv*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*v*) Appointment of increased staff has been sanctioned, adequate medical stores are being supplied and necessary repairs to hospital buildings are being undertaken.

Statement referred to in reply to clauses (d)(i) to (iv) of starred question No. 85.

(d)(i) It appears from the reports received from the Civil Surgeons that 18 Sadar and 46 Subdivisional Hospitals have been provincialised up to the 30th November, 1944.

(ii) Six Sadar and 11 Subdivisional Hospitals still remain to be provincialised.

(iii) and *(iv)* Names of provincialised Sadar and Subdivisional Hospitals are given below with the dates of provincialisation:—

Sadar Hospitals.

(1) Bankura Sadar Hospital—1st June, 1944.
(2) Midnapore Sadar Hospital—1st July, 1944.
(3) Imambara (Hooghly) Sadar Hospital—1st May, 1944.
(4) Krishnagar (Nadia) Sadar Hospital—1st May, 1944.
(5) Berhampore (Murshidabad) Sadar Hospital—15th August, 1944.
(6) Jessore Sadar Hospital—1st September, 1944.
(7) Khulna Sadar Hospital—1st August, 1944.
(8) Mymensingh Sadar Hospital—1st May, 1944.
(9) Faridpur Sadar Hospital—1st July, 1944.
(10) Noakhali Sadar Hospital—15th May, 1944.
(11) Comilla Sadar Hospital—15th June, 1944.
(12) Rajshahi Sadar Hospital—1st May, 1944.
(13) Dinajpur Sadar Hospital—5th May, 1944.
(14) Rangpur Sadar Hospital—20th July, 1944.
(15) Bogra Sadar Hospital—15th May, 1944.
(16) Pabna Sadar Hospital—4th May, 1944.
(17) Malda Sadar Hospital—17th May, 1944.
(18) Darjeeling Sadar Hospital—19th July, 1944.

Subdivisional Hospitals.

(1) Katwa Hospital—16th July, 1944.
(2) Kalna Hospital—16th July, 1944.
(3) Asansol Hospital—16th July, 1944.
(4) Rampurhat Hospital—16th July, 1944.
(5) Vishnupur Hospital—1st June, 1944.
(6) Tamluk Hospital—1st July, 1944.
(7) Ghatal Hospital—1st July, 1944.
(8) Jhargram Hospital—1st July, 1944.
(9) Contai Hospital—1st July, 1944.
(10) Arambagh Hospital—1st July, 1944.
(11) Basirhat Hospital—1st July, 1944.
(12) Kustia Hospital—1st July, 1944.
(13) Meherpur Hospital—1st September, 1944.
(14) Ranaghat Hospital—1st July, 1944.
(15) Chuadanga Hospital—1st July, 1944.
(16) Jangipur Hospital—20th July, 1944.
(17) Jhenidah Hospital—11th July, 1944.
(18) Magura Hospital—24th June, 1944.
(19) Narail Hospital—20th June, 1944.
(20) Bangaon Hospital—10th June, 1944.
(21) Satkhira Hospital—1st August, 1944.
(22) Bagerhat Hospital—1st August, 1944.
(23) Munshiganj Hospital—1st November, 1944.
(24) Kishoreganj Hospital—1st June, 1944.
(25) Jamalpur Hospital—1st June, 1944.
(26) Tangail Hospital—1st June, 1944.
(27) Netrokona Hospital—1st June, 1944.
(28) Madaripur Hospital—1st July, 1944.

(29) Rajbari Hospital—1st July, 1944.
(30) Gopalganj Hospital—1st July, 1944.
(31) Pirojpur Hospital—1st July, 1944.
(32) Bhola Hospital—15th June, 1944.
(33) Brahmanbaria Hospital—15th June, 1944.
(34) Chandpur Hospital—15th June, 1944.
(35) Feni Hospital—15th June, 1944.
(36) Natore Hospital—1st June, 1944.
(37) Naogaon Hospital—1st May, 1944.
(38) Balurghat Hospital—15th August, 1944.
(39) Thakurgaon Hospital—15th August, 1944.
(40) Alipore Duar Hospital—16th October, 1944.
(41) Gaibandha Hospital—20th July, 1944.
(42) Kurigram Hospital—20th July, 1944.
(43) Nilphamari Hospital—20th July, 1944.
(44) Serajganj Hospital—8th May, 1944.
(45) Siliguri Hospital—31st May, 1944.
(46) Kurseong Hospital—1st June, 1944.

The following hospitals still remain unprovincialised.

Sadar Hospitals.

(1) Burdwan Sadar Hospital.
(2) Suri (Birbhum) Sadar Hospital.
(3) Howrah General Hospital.
(4) Barisal Sadar Hospital.
(5) Chittagong General Hospital.
(6) Jalpaiguri General Hospital.

Subdivisional Hospitals.

(1) Uluberia Hospital.
(2) Lalbagh Hospital.
(3) Diamond Harbour Hospital.
(4) Barasat Hospital.
(5) Cox's Bazar Hospital.
(6) Manikganj Hospital.
(7) Narayanganj Hospital.
(8) Serampore Hospital.
(9) Kandi Hospital.
(10) Patuakhali Hospital.
(11) Kalimpong Hospital.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the municipal authorities are still bound to continue their contributions?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Yes, all the local bodies have been asked to contribute.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether they are continuing their contributions?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Some are continuing and others who are in correspondence with the Government will have to continue.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there was appointment of any new staff in any hospital after the 15th of June, 1944, when there was provincialisation of these hospitals?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Yes, in some hospitals there have been appointments.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any new staff has been appointed in the Brahmanbaria Hospital?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Referring to the Berhampore Sadar Hospital, is the Hon'ble Minister aware that after the Provincial Government took over administration of this hospital not only no new appointment has been made in the medical or menial or nursing staff but that a large number of F. R. E. hospitals which are offering more attractive terms have taken away a portion of the existing staff which used to function before the Provincial Government took over?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I think, the requisite staff is maintained there.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the number of doctors today there is less than half of what it was before the 15th of August?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: As soon as the report is received from the Civil Surgeon that more additional staff will be necessary, Government will certainly consider it.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Hospital Committee sent a representation to the Government asking the Government to help the hospital by giving more medicines, more doctors, more nurses and more menials, but that nothing has been done yet?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that before the proposed provincialisation was applied to this hospital, the Hospital Committee and the local municipality which is the parent body and the district board did not agree to hand it over to the Provincial administration but that an assurance was given that the hospital will be given as much assistance as necessary, but nothing has been done yet?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: That assurance still remains. Government has tried to provide the necessary staff and medicines but nothing can be done overnight.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in the months of September and October a complaint was made and that complaint was endorsed by the medical officer of the hospital that for want of Government assistance even tincture iodine is not available for the patients?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Has the Hon'ble Minister's attention been drawn to a reported case that in October a diptheria patient could not be treated in time because the stove could not be lighted for want of spirit or kerosene?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that thereafter the Hospital Committee presided over by the District Magistrate of Murshidabad sent an emergent representation to the Government asking for Government assistance in men and in drugs but nothing has been done?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: If the honourable member wants to ask something about any particular hospital, I want notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that these doctors who used to do part-time work on the basis of an honorarium have been taken over by attractive F. R. E. hospitals and that unless equal remuneration is given to doctors of these ordinary hospitals it is very difficult for them to get doctors to serve there?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: With regard to the first part I want notice; and with regard to the second part, it may be so.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of bringing the remuneration of ordinary hospital doctors on the same level as is offered to the doctors in the F. R. E. hospitals?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Whenever any hospital is taken over by Government all the staff become Government servants temporarily and they are entitled to what salary which similar Government servants draw.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: My question is whether they will get salary and remuneration on the same basis as in F. R. E. hospitals?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: That will be considered.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether nurses and menials of the F. R. E. hospitals get 50 per cent. more than what is given to the nurses and menials of the ordinary hospitals?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of bringing the remuneration of the nurses and menials of the ordinary hospitals on the same level as is given to the nurses and menials of the F. R. E. hospitals?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Government will certainly consider that.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is it not the Hon'ble Minister's information that throughout Bengal on the whole the administration of F. R. E. hospitals is much better than the administration of these ordinary hospitals?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Yes, it is because Government have just taken over the administration of all these hospitals.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Does the Hon'ble Minister expect the patients to wait till the Government is in a position to finance and send men for the equipment of these hospitals?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Patients are coming. In some of the hospitals definite improvement has been made.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the honourable member consider the desirability of instructing the local authorities that they should transfer patients from the ordinary hospitals to F. R. E. hospitals as far as possible?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I cannot answer that.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: What does the honourable member expect the patients to do till Government sends drugs and doctors?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: My point is that the sadar and subdivisional hospitals were continuing so long to the disadvantage of the

patients and the patients will have to suffer those disadvantages for some time more unless and until Government can make provision for the improvement of all the hospitals.

Dr. SANAULLAH: Is the honurable member aware that District Boards of Bengal, specially the district board of Chittagong, have been passing through a finnancial crisis at present?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I cannot understand what the honourable member means by "crisis", but, of course, there is some financial difficulty in district boards.

Dr. SANAULLAH: Will the honourable member be pleased to state why the district boards are being compelled to contribute their normal quota to these Government hospitals?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I have nothing more to add to the reply I have already given.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state when the idea of provincialisation was first taken up by Government?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want notice for that.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is it not a fact that this idea was taken up in view of the military requirements and now that the military requirements are not so pressing, Government is fighting shy of giving assistance to the sadar hospitals?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Had Government any scheme ready when provincialisation was decided upon?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMED: Certainly there was a scheme.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Then what is the reason for this inordinate delay in giving this desired and expected promised assistance to these hospitals?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: We have been giving it.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell the House whether Government is ready to instruct the district boards not to make any grant for these provincialised subdivisional and sadar hospitals?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No, Sir.

Constitution of the South Suburban Municipality.

*86. **Mr. BIRAT CHANDRA MANDAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the names of the sitting Commissioners of the South Suburban Municipality, district 24-Parganas, showing both—

(*i*) elected, and

(*ii*) nominated; and

(*b*) the respective communities they belong to?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): A statement showing the particulars is laid on the Table.

Statement referred to in reply to starred question No. 86.

Names of Commissioners.		Caste.
Elected.		
Babu Becharam Mukherjee	...	Caste Hindu.
Babu Upendra Nath Banerjee	...	Do.
Babu Ramendra Nath Roy	...	Do.
Babu Kalidas Roy	...	Do.
Babu Kunja Behary Mukherjee	...	Do.
Babu Sushil Kumar Chatterjee	...	Do.
Babu Satyen Kumar Mukherjee	...	Do.
Mr. Biren Roy, M.L.C.	...	Do.
Babu Charu Chandra Banerjee	...	Do.
Mr. R. Alam Chowdhury	...	Muslim.
Maulvi Golam Satter.	...	Do.
Appointed.		
Babu Piyari Mohan Das	...	Caste Hindu.
Mrs. Labanya Prova Dutt, M.L.C.	...	Christian.
Mr. Joseph Issac	...	Do.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the strength of the different communities in the matter of population and voting strength for the Muslims, Scheduled Castes, Caste Hindus and Christians?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want notice.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Is the name of Mrs. Labanya Prova Dutt on the voters' list of the municipality?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I want notice.

Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on what principle the appointments were made in the municipality and the question whether the names were on the voters' list was looked into?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: In matters of appointment, Government is sometimes guided by the opinion of the local officers and always the opinions of the local officers are taken.

Scarcity of potato seeds in Bengal.

*87. **Mr. HARENDRA NATH DOLUI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department aware that this year scarcity of potato seeds has been keenly experienced by the cultivators of the Province?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the causes that led to the scarcity; and

(*ii*) what steps Government has taken as a remedy of it?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many acres of lands ready for potato cultivation have been left uncultivated for want of potato seeds this year; and

(*ii*) whether the Government are considering the desirability for prompt supply of potato seeds to those cultivators?

MINISTER in charge of the AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain): (*a*) Yes; difficulties were experienced due to shortage of seeds ordinarily imported from other Provinces.

(*b*) (*i*) Ban on export imposed by neighbouring Provinces which largely supplied Bengal's demands in normal years coupled with difficulties of transport was responsible for the restriction in supply of seeds.

(*ii*) The Governments of Bihar, Punjab, Madras and Assam were requested for export quotas and Government of India were also moved to exercise their good offices.

(*c*) (*i*) In the absence of accurate statistics it is not possible to say how many acres are lying uncultivated but the general impression in trade circles is that the normal area under potatoes has been sown.

(*ii*) All possible steps have been taken for supply of seed potatoes.

Dismissal of one Babu Gagan Chandra Das, a clerk in the Mymensingh Collectorate.

*88. **Rai Sahib MONOMOHAN DAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that one Babu Gagan Chandra Das, a clerk of the Mymensingh Collectorate, who was appointed at Kishoreganj Jagat Kishore Destitute Home (Mymensingh), as supervisor clerk has recently been discharged on the report of the Subdivisional Officer, Kishoreganj, over the confidential note of the Superintendent of Destitute Home without any explanation from the clerk; and

(*ii*) that in spite of his repeated prayers he has not been supplied with any copy of the charge (if any) against him?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the said clerk comes from the (Hrishi) section of the Scheduled Castes; and

(*ii*) that the clerk holding the position of a supervisor in the Home was intolerable on the part of the said Superintendent?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of making proper enquiry and revising the order?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea): (*a*)(*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Only once he approached the Subdivisional Officer for a copy of the charge against him and he was asked to obtain it from the Collector's office as the Collector passed orders for his discharge.

(*b*)(*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) and (*c*) No. There were serious allegations against him for which he was given repeated warnings but as he did not mend his conduct, he was discharged.

Rai Sahib MONOMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on how many occasions the clerk was given warning?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKHERJEA: Warnings were given but I cannot say offhand without notice how many warnings were given.

Rai Sahib MONOMOHAN DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether it is a fact that no opportunity was given to him to defend his case?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: That is not a fact.

Rai Sahib MONOMOHAN DAS: Is it a fact that ill-feeling was going on between the Superintendent and the clerk from the very beginning of his posting as Supervisor in the Home?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Government has no such information.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the main items in the charge?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: There were various charges. For details I want notice.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Classification of Prisoner Babu Subodh Kumar Mitra, B.Sc.

25. Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: With reference to the answer given on the 6th July, 1943, to the unstarred question No. 7, regarding classification of prisoner, Babu Subodh Kumar Mitra, B.Sc., will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the result of enquiry;

(*b*) whether he was classified as Division II prisoner;

(*c*) if so, when;

(*d*) the date of petition to the Home Department praying for higher classification; and

(*e*) the date of his release?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) to (*c*) As a result of the enquiry, Government were satisfied that the prisoner was eligible for Division II and orders were issued to place him in Division II in Government order No. 10728H.J., dated the 3rd September, 1943.

(*d*) Government received no petition either from the prisoner or from any other person on his behalf praying for higher classification.

(*e*) 7th August, 1943.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the date of his arrest and the date when he was classified?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us at least the date of his conviction?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: How is it that he was classified on the 3rd September, 1943, after his release which was on the 7th August, 1943?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The honourable member has misunderstood. The position is this. When he was classed as Division III at Jalpaiguri Government had no information about the classification. There is no procedure by which information is conveyed to Government regarding the classification of a convicted prisoner. The point is this: he was actually entitled to be classified as Division II but he was classified as Division III. When this information was brought to the notice of Government probably by this question, Government immediately passed orders for the classification of the prisoner in Division II, but by that time the prisoner had been released.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us when this information was communicated to Government that he was placed in Division III?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot give the date.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer just now given that this prisoner though entitled to be classified as Division II remained as Division III prisoner for the whole term, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how they are going to ensure speedy classification to the deserving prisoners?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The classification is done by the Court. Normally a prisoner is classified as Division I or II on representation being made to the Court. If any classification above III is made, a reference has to be made to Government, but in case of classification in Division III no reference has to be made to Government. Now, this prisoner being convicted at Jalpaiguri was classed as Division III. So no action was taken by Government, because Government were not informed of the classification. When the attention of Government was drawn to the matter that the prisoner was classified as Division III prisoner who should be normally classified in Division II, Government immediately conducted an enquiry and passed orders that he should be classified as Division II prisoner, but by that time the prisoner had been released.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: How do the Government ensure that a prisoner deserving class II or I be at once classified as Division II or I by the Court and not rot as Division III prisoner in the jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: If anybody is not satisfied with the decision of the Court, he can always appeal to Government for better classification and in this case Goverment was not moved.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us whether the Police Department in this case interferes with the free judgment of the Court to make divisions about security prisoners or political prisoners?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir; and so far as security prisoners are concerned there is no question of classification.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to empower the trial court to classify prisoners to I and II classes pending confirmation by Government?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is done.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Sir, answer to my question has not been given. Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell the House whether the Police Department interferes with the free judgment of the Court in classifying prisoners, whether convicted or detained?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir, there is no interference.

Grant of family allowances to security prisoners.

28. Mr. PRATUL CHANDRA GANGULI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether the following security and State prisoners have been granted allowances for the maintenance of their families:—

(1) Srijut Ganendra Chandra Bhattacharji, of Dacca.
(2) Srijut Debendra Bijoy Dutta, of Faridpur.
(3) Professor Saroj Kumar Sen, of Faridpur.
(4) Srijut Preoranjan Das Gupta, of Barisal.
(5) Srijut Phani Sarkhel, of Barisal.
(6) Srijut Dhiresh Chandra Ghosh, of Comilla.
(7) Dr. Rabindra Kumar Roy, of Dacca.
(8) Srijut Charu Chandra Roy, of Dacca.
(9) Srijut Tejendra Dutta, of Dacca.
(10) Srijut Atul Chandra Dutt, of Comilla,
(11) Srijut Prafulla Ranjan Ghosh *alias* Nathu, of Dacca,
(12) Srijut Birendra Chandra Ganguli, State prisoner, and
(13) Srijut Bhglanath Das, of Howrah?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that the abovementioned security and State prisoners were the earning members of their families; and

(*ii*) that the families of the abovementioned prisoners are almost in starving condition?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of granting them suitable allowances for the maintenance of their families?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) A statement is laid on the Library Table.

(*b*) and (*c*) The honourable member is referred to my reply to (*a*).

(*d*) Does not arise.

Treatment of certain security prisoner detained in the Hijli Special Jail.

27. Mr. PRATUL CHANDRA GANGULI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the present condition of health of the security prisoner Sreejut Kedareswar Sen Gupta; and

(*ii*) whether the aforesaid security prisoner was examined by the—

(1) Civil Surgeon of Midnapore, and

(2) Medical Officer of the Hijli Special Jail?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*)(*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the result thereof?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Sreejut Kedareswar Sen Gupta was also examined in the Medical College Hospitals, Calcutta?

(*d*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the result thereof?

(*e*) Is it a fact that Sreejut Kedareswar Sen Gupta is confined to bed and cannot stand up?

(*f*) If the answer to (*e*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of sending him to a sanatorium for treatment?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*)(*i*) He is ill-nourished and emaciated—his present weight is 74 lbs. only.

(*ii*) and (*c*) Yes.

(*b*) The doctors were of opinion that it was a case of chronic intestinal tuberculosis.

(*d*) The medical officer was of opinion that this prisoner was suffering from indigestion and the effects of constipation. He had also chronic urticaria.

(*e*) Yes. Cannot stand up without support.

(*f*) The prisoner was examined by the First Physician of the Medical College, Calcutta, who was of opinion that his case was not serious and he could be treated with plenty of good food. He has, therefore, been transferred to the Jalpaiguri Jail where he is getting all the facilities prescribed for him. It is reported that his health has shown slight improvement since his arrival in the Jalpaiguri Jail.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the present age of the security prisoner in question?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the height of the security prisoner?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot give this information offhand.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is satisfied that the prisoner has the normal minimum weight of a man of his age and height?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It has already been stated that he is weak and emaciated and suffering from chronic dyspepsia and as such he has not got the normal weight.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the prisoner has gained in weight since his transfer to Jalpaiguri in any way?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: In view of the condition as described in the answer, does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of releasing this prisoner?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the prisoner has ever been given treatment for his chronic intestinal tuberculosis from which he is suspected to be suffering?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The case of the prisoner was first diagnosed as chronic intestinal tuberculosis, but he was examined properly later on and the case was diagnosed as chronic dyspepsia.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the idea in keeping in detention a man who from all information given by Government is more dead than alive?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is not exactly correct. I draw the attention of the honourable member to the latter part of answer (*f*).

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: How many days was this prisoner in the Medical College?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us why he was not properly treated in the Medical College?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He was properly treated. He was examined by the First Physician of the Medical College, Calcutta, who was of opinion that his case was not serious and he could be treated with plenty of good food and ordinary normal medicine.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: How long is he in detention?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer given that the security prisoner cannot stand up without support, will the Hon'ble Minister kindly reconsider his case and release him because he is unfit to do anything subversive?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He is weak, but I draw the attention of the honourable member to the latter part of my answer (*f*) where it is stated that his condition has shown improvement since his arrival in Jalpaiguri after his treatment in the Medical College, Calcutta.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us some idea as to in what respect he has obtained slight improvement at Jalpaiguri jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: When will Government think his case to be serious and under what circumstances?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: If and when the case becomes serious, Government will think it serious.

Withholding of a letter of Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee to Mahatma Gandhi.

28. Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a letter written on 8th August, 1944, by Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, M.L.A., at present a security prisoner in the Rajshahi Central Jail, to Mahatma Gandhi, Sevagram, Wardha, C.P., has been withheld by the Government?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the letter referred to did not deal with Jail affairs or with politics?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay a copy of the letter on the Table?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The letter was not confined to his private matters as contemplated in rule 19 of the Bengal Security Prisoners Rules.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) I am not prepared to do this in the public interest.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us what public interest will suffer by laying a copy of the letter on the table?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It is not expedient in the interest of the public security to lay a copy of the letter on the table

Arrest of Babu Arun Chandra Sen.

29. Mr. RADHA NATH DAS: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the date when and the circumstances in which Babu Arun Chandra Sen, son of Rai Dr. Dines Chandra Sen Bahadur, D.LITT., was arrested under the Defence of India Rules at Sonada in the district of Darjeeling;

(*b*) whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that at the time of the arrest the residence of Arun Babu was searched;

(*ii*) that nothing objectionable was found;

(*iii*) that Arun Babu was taken away from Darjeeling district on the day following his arrest;

(*iv*) that he was made to walk to the Darjeeling railway station on foot from the jail; and

(*v*) that Arun Babu was taken in a third class carriage while the escorting I.B. officer travelled in a second class compartment:

(*c*) what was the information in possession of Government regarding the status, education and state of health of Babu Arun Chandra Sen while he was placed under arrest; and

(*d*) what is the present position regarding the detention of this gentleman?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The action regarding the arrest and detention of Babu Arun Chandra Sen was taken at the instance of the Government of India. I must in the public interest decline to furnish any further details.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state which part of the question is answered by the reply that action regarding the arrest and detention of Babu Arun Chandra Sen was taken at the instance of the Government of India. Is the Government of India responsible for placing this prisoner under arrest when he was ill? He was taken away from the Darjeeling district; he went there for a change.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Orders for the arrest of the security prisoner were issued by the Government of India and the Government of India is also responsible for the detention of the prisoner.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of India also was responsible for taking the prisoner on foot from his residence to the railway station when he was sick?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The information of Government is that he was in good health at the time of arrest.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Was he or was he not taken on foot from his residence to the railway station?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice. I cannot give the information offhand.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to reply to question (*b*) (*iv*), namely, that he was made to walk to the Darjeeling railway station on foot from the jail, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he made any enquiries following this question as to whether that was correct?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The information that Government received is that he was in good health at the time of arrest.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What is the distance between the Darjeeling jail and the Darjeeling railway station?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot say that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government of India order was to penalise this gentleman, an *ex*-Professor of the Scottish Church College and son of Rai Bahadur D. C. Sen, a doctor of the University of Calcutta and to take him in a third class compartment?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The question of penalising does not arise at all. Under rule 60 of the Security Prisoners Rules, prisoners are entitled to intermediate class travel, but in the D. H. Railway there is no intermediate class. Therefore the prisoner was given the option to travel in second class if he paid the difference over and above of third class fare, which the prisoner refused to pay.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that while the prisoner was taken in a crowded third class compartment, the I. B. officer accompanying him travelled in a second class compartment?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Notice was there already. The question was there, namely, (*b*) (*v*) "that Arun Babu was taken in a third class carriage while the escorting I. B. officer travelled in a second class compartment".

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have not got the information regarding the latter part, but I have already stated why he travelled in a third class compartment.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this prisoner is detained within the province of Bengal or outside?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Outside.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the relations of the prisoner have been given information as to his place of detention and whether facilities are being provided to them for interviews?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: This information, I regret, can not be given by us because we are not aware of the place of detention of the security prisoner more than the fact that he is now in the custody of the Government of India and any information regarding the prisoner may be obtained from the Government of India who are responsible for his detention.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Government of Bengal had anything to do with the detention and arrest of the prisoner, Babu Arun Chandra Sen?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I would refer the honourable member to the reply already given.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The answer is that the action was at the instance of the Government of India. May we know whether that action was engineered by or prompted through any act of the Government of Bengal?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The question of engineering does not arise. The action was taken by the Government of India and the arrest was carried out by the Government of Bengal at the instance of the Government of India.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that there is a rule which provides for carrying the prisoner in 2nd class if the escort is an Anglo-Indian Sergeant?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The rule provides that he should travel by the Intermediate Class and if the security prisoner, where there is no Intermediate class, pays the difference, he is given the option of travelling in the upper class.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that there is a rule which provides for the travel of a prisoner in the second class if the escort is an Anglo-Indian Sergeant?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the rule which provides that a prisoner can be taken in the upper class if the escort happens to be an Anglo-Indian, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the difference was charged in the case of this prisoner?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already pleaded my ignorance so far as that rule is concerned. I do not know whether the rule exists or not. So, I cannot answer that question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that there is such a rule, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to revise the rule to which he referred?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware. So, how can I answer that question?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how by giving information regarding the education, status and health of the prisoner public interest will be jeopardised?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot answer that question in the public interest.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: With reference to the answer that he was taken in the third class as there was no intermediate class, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House whether the Government will consider the desirability of revising the rule so that where there is no Intermediate Class, the prisoner may be taken by the next higher class?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I think as far as my information goes it is only in the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway there is no Intermediate Class.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Arrest of persons in Chittagong since outbreak of present war.

*89. **Mr. P. BANERJI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of persons arrested in Chittagong and taken in custody as security prisoners after the war had broken out;

(*ii*) the number of persons arrested from August, 1942; and

(*iii*) the number of them who have so far been released?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether an M.L.A. from the Chittagong district brought to the notice of the Government immediate necessity for the grant of allowance to the families of the following persons, viz.:—

(1) Srijut Dwijendra Pal—security prisoner, Central Jail, Dacca,

(2) Suresh Ch. Banerjee—security prisoner, Central Jail, Dacca,

(3) Amalendu Bikash Das—security prisoner, Central Jail, Dacca,

(4) Phanindra Bikash Das Gupta—security prisoner, Central Jail, Dacca,

(5) Ananda Chandra De—security prisoner, Central Jail, Dacca,

(6) Barada Prasad Nandy—security prisoner, Central Jail, Dacca,

(7) Pratap Chandra Rakshit—Rajshahi Central Jail, and

(8) Dr. S. N. Chowdhury, B.SC., Homeopath—interned in his village Surhy, Chittagong; and

(*ii*) whether family allowance in any of the cases mentioned above has been granted?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*)(*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the amount granted in each case?

(*d*) If the answer to (*b*)(*ii*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why no allowance has been granted?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) One hundred and thirteen.

(*ii*) Two thousand four hundred and thirty-five.

(*iii*) One thousand two hundred and eighty-nine.

(*b*)(*i*) Yes, only in the case of Dr. S. N. Chowdhury.

(*ii*) Yes, in all cases except Babu Suresh Chandra Banarjee, from whom no application for family allowance has yet been received by Government.

(*c*) A statement is laid on the Library Table.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Regarding persons arrested in some subdivisions of Midnapore, during the period from 8th August, 1942, to 20th June, 1943.

*90. **Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to lay on the Table, a statement showing for subdivisions of Contai, Tamluk and Sadar in the district of Midnapore during the period from 8th August, 1942, to 20th June, 1943—

(1) the total number of arrest;

(2) the total number of persons—

(A) tried,

(B) convicted, and

(C) acquitted; and

(3) the total number of release—
(A) at the expiry of terms, or
(B) otherwise?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table another statement showing—

(*i*) the total number of undertrials on the 20th June, 1943, in all the jails of the district under the following categories, viz.—
(1) detained without trial for more than 8 months,
(2) detained without trial for 7 months,
(3) detained without trial for 6 months,
(4) detained without trial for 5 months, and
(5) detained without trial for 4 months;

(*ii*) the total number of prisoners on the 20th June, 1943, other than the security prisoners or State prisoners under the following categories in the Midnapore Central Jail—
(1) convicted, and
(2) undertrials; and

(*iii*) the total number of—
(1) indoor, and
(2) outdoor

patients on 20th June, 1943, in the Midnapore Central Jail?

(*c*) Is it a fact that all the undertrials are to take their meals in *sal* leaf instead of utensils?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, he proposes to take in the matter?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (1) and (2).

	Total number of arrests.	Tried.	Convicted.	Acquitted.
Midnapore ..	2,341	929	479	450
Contai ..	1,286	424	281	143
Tamluk ..	1,717	559	394	165
Total ..	5,344	1,922	1,154	758

(*a*) (*3*)—

	Total number of release at the expiry of terms.	Otherwise.
Midnapore	394	216
Contai	6	317
Tamluk	21	261
Total ..	421	794

(*b*) (*i*)—

	Midnapore.	Tamluk.	Contai.	Jhargram.	Ghatal.	Total.
(1)	7	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	7
(2)	50	,,	,,	,,	,,	50
(3)	90	1	,,	,,	,,	91
(4)	73	1	,,	1	4	79
(5)	103	10	,,	2	5	120

(*ii*) (1) One thousand and twenty-three.

(2) One thousand and thirty-seven including 27 sessions.

(*iii*) (1) Two hundred and eighteen including 92 convalescents.

(2) Sixty-one including old cases.

(*c*) No. When there was a sudden influx of the number of under-trial prisoners, some of them were supplied temporarily with *sal* leaves to take their meals but they have already been supplied with necessary utensils.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Supply of clothings to Babu Adhir Cumar Banerji, a security prisoner.

***91. Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether he is aware that Babu Adhir Cumar Banerji who is at present a security prisoner placed in the Suri Jail has not been supplied with jail clothings although his confirmation as a secuirty prisoner has been made about 2 months ago?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) and (*b*) I understand that there was some delay in supplying clothing to this prisoner. But this delay was due to the fact that the prisoner refused clothing of the standard variety and insisted on *khaddar* clothing of a particular type which was not then locally available. He has since been supplied with all his clothing and transferred to the Midnapore Central Jail.

Supply of clothings to security prisoners of Buxa Special Reserve and other jails.

***92. Babu JNANENDRA CHANDRA MAJUMDAR:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department aware—

(*i*) that many security prisoners of the Buxa Special Reserve, the Midnapore Central and other jails did not get and are not getting on due dates of supply many items of clothings and other articles due to them according to the Security Prisoners Rules;

(*ii*) that according to a circular from the Inspector-General of Prisons issued in June last or thereabout the period of life or duration of articles would in future be reckoned from due date on which the articles are to be supplied, but any article already issued after receipt of the said circular though its due date of issue was prior to date of receipt of the circular would be deemed to have been issued on due date and its period of life or duration would be reckoned from the date of its issue and due date of its replacement by a new one calculated accordingly; and

(*iii*) that in consequence thereof many security prisoners are not getting many articles due to them and which they would have got had the Jail authorities or authorities concerned supplied the articles on due dates of supply and replacement?

(*b*) If the answers to (*a*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Hon'ble Minister is considering the desirability of issuing orders so that not only in future as stated in the above-mentioned circular but also for the period prior to its issue the period of life or duration of articles are to be reckoned from due date on which the articles are and were to be supplied and thereby the security prisoners may get all the articles due to them but not yet supplied?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) and (*iii*) I have no exact information but I am aware that due to the uncertain condition of market delays sometimes occur in supplying due articles to security prisoners. These are unavoidable in these days of emergency but every effort is made to minimise them.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) Originally the period of life or duration of an article supplied to security prisoners was reckoned from the date of actual issue. I have since decided to discontinue this practice and have laid down the principle, with effect from the 31st May, 1944, that the period of life or duration of an article should be counted from the date on which it is due and not from the date on which it is actually supplied. For obvious reasons this decision cannot be implemented retrospectively but this principle is being followed in respect of all articles that fall due on or after the 31st May, 1944. I have also decided to follow this principle in respect of articles that fall due before the 31st May, 1944, but could not be actually supplied by that date.

Censoring of letters of Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, M.L.A., a security prisoner.

*93. **Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether it is a fact that a letter written by security prisoner Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, M.L.A., at present lodged in the Rajshahi Central Jail, to security prisoner Dr. Nripendra Nath Bose of the Alipore Central Jail was withheld by the District Intelligence Branch, Rajshahi, on the ground that the letter contained discussions about jail affairs;

(*ii*) whether security prisoners are permitted to write about their health to their friends in other jails;

(*iii*) if so, is it not a fact that in the letter referred to Dr. Banerjee described only the present condition of his health and the letter contained no information about jail affairs;

(*iv*) whether it is a fact that the duty of censoring letters is generally entrusted to young officers who are inexperienced in censoring; and

(*v*) whether as to censoring letters the decision of the District Intelligence Officer is final or whether there is any higher authority to revise their decision?

(*b*) If there be any higher authority, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the letter was referred to such authority; and

(*ii*) if so, with what result?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) I refer the honourable member to rule 19 of the Bengal Security Prisoners Rules, a copy of which is placed in the Library.

(*iii*) and (*iv*) No.

(*v*) I refer the honourable member to rule 22 of the Bengal Security Prisoners Rules, a copy of which is placed in the Library.

(*b*)(*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) The decision of the District Intelligence Branch was confirmed.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us definitely whether a security prisoner detained in one jail can write to another security prisoner in another jail regarding the health of the prisoner?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The subject matter of all letters must be limited strictly to private matters. There must be no discussion in the letters about the jail administration or discipline. They must not also refer to the health of other prisoners or to politics.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the health of a particular prisoner a private matter?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The rule lays down that there should be no reference to other security prisoners.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how and in what manner he violated the provisions of rule 19 in this particular case?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot say in what particular manner the rule was violated, but the rule was violated and therefore the letter had to be withheld.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Question time over. It is expected that today's business may be over by 6 p.m. or even earlier.

(The House was adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Ordinance.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I beg to lay, under section 88(2) (*a*) of the Government of India Act, 1935, the Bengal Destitute Persons (Repatriation and Relief) Ordinance, 1944.

GOVERNMENT BILL.

The Bengal Embankment (Amendment) Bill, 1944, as passed by the Bengal Legislative Council.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: Sir, I beg to move that the Bengal Embankment (Amendment) Bill, 1944, as passed by the Bengal Legislative Council, be taken into consideration.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANAYL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to avail of this opportunity of offering some constructive suggestions regarding the ante-diluvian character of the law of 1882 which is proposed to be amended only in part thereof and I would expect the Hon'ble Minister to consider my suggestions for what they are worth so that he may advise his department and Government accordingly.

In 1882 the embankment probably was a normal necessity on account of the particular character of the rivers of that time and of the particular character of the overflow from such rivers. In 1882 the rivers were not so shallow as they are now. Rivers then had the containing and carrying capacity of much of the water that flowed into them, either from the rains or from the overflow from the hill tracts but by the gradual silting up of the rivers the reasons for which have been fully explained by Sir William Wilcox, the conditions of things today are far different from what they were in 1882 or some time before that or some time after that.

Now, Sir, embankments now-a-days have become more or less a menace and peril to agricultural interests in the country. Formerly crops had to be protected from inundation by setting up bunds but high flow was not a normal phenomenon every year and when high flood did come it really threatened much of the standing crops and the necessity for protecting such crops from inundation and damage by means of setting up bunds was felt correctly. But today, Sir, what is the position? The embankments or the

setting of the embankments there serves a different purpose. The rivers do not possess the old containing or carrying capacity. They have become shallow and almost every year there are certain chronic areas in which whether there is high flood in big rivers or not, whether there is heavy rainfall or not, they pass through certain well known tracts and here the concern of the Government is not so much to maintain the bunds for protecting the outflow of water; on the other hand, the concern of the Government ought to be to remove sites of the bunds so that the water which overflows from the rivers can flow into other areas instead of remaining blocked in a particular place. What is happening today is that the Department is sticking to the orthodox embankments but the necessity of the actual condition of things requires that these embankments should disappear.

Now, Sir, in this matter I can refer to my own district. During the last eight years that I have been in this House there have been several conferences which were presided over by experts of the Department and non-officials who claim to have some knowledge of things and in some of the conferences there was a unanimous demand that these embankments will not only be not repaired but that the residues of the embankments should be demolished altogether. And even when the present Minister assumed office his attention was drawn to the matter through the press and through other machineries and at some time I understand he gave some indication that he would look into these questions, but I am again referring to the conditions in my district that when there was a demand for demolition of an embankment certain vested interests who were biding their time got hold of the situation when there was a recommendation from the Government of India that petty irrigation schemes taken up by the Government in the province would be financed and assisted by the revenues from the Centre. At once the whip of the department went over to the districts and the District Magistrates, the District Engineers and the Executive Engineers felt one thing but they insisted that something has to be done because the Government of India would pay the money and the Bengal Government should see their way that their money is spent and that the local authorities must be as quick to do things as possible and the result has been that embankments which were proposed to be abolished on a unanimous recommendation of all the available local opinions endorsed by the officials of the Irrigation Department, these embankments are again being set up and the zemindars and other influential persons are influencing the persons of the Department to do things in their own way. The result has been that the embankments which are going to be set up or repaired at the cost of the public revenues will be a permanent source of destruction to the standing crop of thousands and thousands of acres of land. The reason is obvious. If water is not allowed to pass on account of some impediment standing, it may for the time being do some good to the restricted area but a larger area which requires a free passage and flow of water will suffer. As a matter of fact I am speaking from what I know in my district as to how embankments have caused devastation to standing crop and therefore my idea is that the law of 1882 should not only be amended in part and piecemeal but this law should be repealed altogether and Government should consider the desirability of bringing a comprehensive legislation which will give good bye to all that was necessary in the past and which will take stock of the existing state of things and in this matter Government should be advised not only by its own department but Government should take special opinion of the district boards, municipalities and local bodies which are strictly functioning in every locality and non-official of all sort should be elicited. Therefore I would request the Hon'ble Minister to consider this question from a constructive point of view. Let this Act, namely, Bengal Embankment Act of 1882, come to an end. Let a new Bill be drafted by the Minister and let it be influenced and determined and guided by official and non-official opinion and the opinion of the expert so that a comprehensive Bill will bring in legislation which will serve the purposes of all sections and will be for the lasting benefit of agriculturists of this province.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prosanna Pain that the Bengal Embankment (Amendment) Bill, 1944, as passed by the Bengal Legislative Council be taken into consideration was then put and agreed to.

Clause 1.

The question that clause 1 stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Clause 2.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, in moving the amendment given notice of I only seek to clarify one point which in a way is contained in sections 58 to 60 of the Act regarding the apportionment of cost amongst various parties benefited through this measure. I move that in clause 2(*b*) after the proposed clause (*1a*) of section 7 of the Act, the following proviso be added, namely:—

"Provided that no additional burden for the maintenance or repairs of such embankment may be imposed on the adjoining tenants or on the landlord unless proportionate benefit is accrued to them."

Sir, I feel that in matters like this when Government find it necessary in public interest to come forward with a suggestion through their local officials to effect some executive act by way of issuing an order for repairs of an embankment by private parties, Government should also be in a position to contribute something towards that act. Unfortunately, it was not possible within the rules of the Assembly to suggest that part of the repairs cost be borne by Government because rules will not permit me to impose any burden by amendment on the Provincial Government. My intention has been, Sir, that there should be some reasonable contribution by Government and the public should not be called upon to bear a portion of the cost higher than the actual benefit that may be obtained from the same. If on a reading of the relevant sections, sections 54 to 60 as a matter of fact, it is the opinion of the Government that my motion is not necessary, I shall not press it to vote.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: Sir, in regard to the observations made by Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal, I shall have the position examined in view of the submissions which he has made. I would only like to point out that opinions differ with regard to the utility of embankments. Some experts say that embankments are absolutely ruinous; some say that they are necessary.

With regard to the amendment of Dr. Sanyal, I should say that it is redundant because the purpose which he tries to secure is already secured by the provisions of apportionment amongst zemindars under clause 58 and amongst tenure-holders under clause 59—about ratable proportion of benefits so receievd or the areas so benefited. In this view I shall seriously ask Dr. Sanyal to withdraw his amendment.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Yes, Sir, I have no objection to withdraw my amendmend.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that in clause 2(*b*) after the proposed clause (*1a*) of section 7 of the Act, the following proviso be added, namely:—

"Provided that no additional burden for the maintenance or repairs of such embankment may be imposed on the adjoining tenants or on the landlord unless proportionate benefit is accrued to them."

was then by leave of the House withdrawn.

The question that clause 2 stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

Preamble.

The question that the preamble stand part of the Bill was then put and agreed to.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: Sir, I beg to move that the Bengal Embankment (Amendment) Bill, 1944, as settled in the Assembly, be passed.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this motion on the ground that the Bengal Embankment Act should be repealed instead of being amended in the way it is sought to be amended. In this matter, Sir, the Hon'ble Minister wants to say that there is difference of opinion with regard to the necessity of embankments. But, Sir, I speak from my own experience. So far as the Gumti Embankment is concerned in the district of Tippera, this is a question which is agitating for the last 100 years and the opinions of a good many experts have been taken over this question and as there have been breaches in the embankment almost annually, flood is now almost an annual visitation. With regard to this matter, since the year 1937—since I have been here—I have been pressing that something must be done with regard to this embankment. As a matter of fact, there was a conference and in the conference that was held in December, 1939, it was decided unanimously and the experts agreed that the embankment should be done away with. As amongst the members present and as amongst the experts, there was the unanimous decision that the embankment should be done away with and that was the policy of the Government for a long time. A portion of the Gumti Embankment was done away with long before. Our contention was that the embankment on both sides should be done away with and the contention was accepted by all the experts present, but peculiarly, Sir, instead of doing away with the embankment, it has now been heightened. The Hon'ble Minister knows that the embankment has been heightened, it has been broadened and it has been made *pucca* on two sides. It has been made *pucca* on account of the proximity of the aerodrome, this is the reason, but not for the benefit of the people or for the benefit of the agriculturists. I know, Sir, that a portion of it has been made *pucca* for the benefit of the aerodrome and some portion has not been made *pucca*. The result is that there will be breaches in that part of the embankment and there will be annual visitation of floods. So, Sir, it is not a fact that there was a difference of opinion with regard to doing away with the embankment. The opinion was unanimous that he embankment should be done away with.

So, Sir, I beg to submit that there was no necessity for a Bill like this. There was necessity for a Bill for repealing the Bengal Embankment Act and finding out means as to how floods could be averted in places where there are embankments and how agriculture could be improved. With these few words, I oppose this motion.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prosanna Pain that the Bengal Embankment (Amendment) Bill, 1944, as settled in the Assembly, be passed, was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 5-35 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Thursday, the 1st March, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

The Assembly met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 1st March, 1945, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 175 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Assault on security prisoners in the Presidency Jail.

*94. **Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether he received telegraphic messages, dated the 25th April, 1943, from certain M.L.As. now lodged in the Presidency Jail severally and also jointly relating to assault on the security prisoners in the Presidency Jail?

(*b*) If the reply to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when he received those telegraphic messages and what action or actions did he take in respect of complaint made in them?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table the contents of the telegraphic messages?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether he received any other letter or letters from the members referred to in (*a*), and if so,

(*ii*) when;

(*iii*) what were the contents of those letters;

(*iv*) what action or actions he proposes to take on the complaints made in those letters; and

(*v*) whether any of the Hon'ble Ministers or the Inspector-General of Prisons visited the Presidency Jail after receiving the information of the incident of the 25th April, 1943.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) to (*d*) The subject-matter of this question was fully dealt with in my reply to question No. 439, dated the 23rd June, 1944, asked by Mr. Sibnath Banerjee and I refer the honourable member to the interpellations on that question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that this question is quite different from the question No. 439 dated the 23rd June, 1944, and it contains more new questions than those asked in question No. 439.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If it is a new matter you can put supplementary questions.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The subject-matter of this question was dealt with in that question and also in the interpellations afterwards that followed the reply to the original question. It is not an identical question. The subject-matter of this question was dealt with in the main question No. 439 and its reply or in supplementaries to that question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the substance of the telegraphic message?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. It is stated that the reply which is wanted by this question is covered by the answer to question No. 439. Over this matter there is a great deal of difference of opinion. On behalf of Government it is stated that the matter is covered. We contend that it is not covered. So it will be in the interests of both sides to have the matter cleared up, and if we agree, I suggest that these three questions, namely, questions Nos. 94, 95, and 96 may be held over, so that both parties may look into the questions and answers and they might ascertain whether it is really covered or whether it should be treated as a fresh question. It is no use arguing now whether it is covered or not covered.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If you want to elicit further information, you may put supplementary questions. But if it is the desire of the House to hold these three questions over, I have no objection.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, what will be the utility of holding over these questions? This question has been discussed threadbare in interpellations not once, but several times. Of course, if the honourable member insists, I have no objection to hold them over for a day or two, but Government would like to know whether the honourable members are in earnest to do that.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANAYL: Certainly.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: These three questions are held over.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, there is no question replied as No. 439, dated the 23rd June, 1944. The reference has been wrongly given.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The number may be wrong.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When the question will come up the next day, you can raise that point then.

Supersession in Calcutta Police.

*97. **Mr. UPENDRA NATH EDBAR:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware of the fact—

(*i*) that the permanent Sub-Inspectors of Police under the Calcutta Police Force, are some times to work even under the officiating Sub-Inspectors of Police who are, in fact, Assistant Sub-Inspectors in rank; and

(*ii*) that aforesaid officiating Sub-Inspectors of Police are, often, placed in charge of police-stations in preference to highly qualified and experienced permanent Sub-Inspectors?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many such cases of supersession have occurred during the last 5 years; and

(*ii*) under what circumstances?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether such supersession contravenes the statutory rules of the Department?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government propose to take in the matter?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) and (*c*) No.

(*ii*) In some cases officiating Sub-Inspectors with experience are placed in charge of police-stations in preference to permanent Sub-Inspectors who are junior in service and have very little experience of thana work. This also happens some times when suitable permanent Sub-Inspectors are not available as they are wanted for more responsible posts due to the emergency.

(*i*) Three.

(*ii*) As stated in (*a*) (*ii*).

(*d*) Does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are those "responsible posts due to the emergency" he has referred to in his reply (*a*) (*ii*)?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Many responsible posts due to the creation of the Enforcement Branch and other branches like that.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us the rule or rules by which he says that supersession is not against the statutory rules of the department? In reply to question (*c*) he has said "No." which means supersession is allowed under the rules. Will he be pleased to give us the number of the rules or provisions by which such supersession is allowed?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have said that this does not contravene the statutory rules.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us some idea on what rule he bases this reply?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The question of rule does not arise. It amounts to this that no statutory rules have been contravened.

Applicability of rules of Jail Code to security prisoners.

*98. **Babu NAGENDRA NATH SEN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether security prisoners are amenable in all respects to the rules in the Jail Code; and

(*ii*) whether communications with and correspondence to and from these prisoners are controlled and censored by the District Police?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state under what authority they do so?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a copy of the rules and regulations and procedure governing such communications and correspondence?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether security prisoners are classified; and

(*ii*) whether the rules in Chapters XXXVI and XXXVII of the Bengal Jail Code, 7th edition, apply to security prisoners?

(*e*) If not, what are the rules that govern them?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) and (*d*) No.

(*ii*) and (*b*) I refer the honourable member to the provisions of rule 22 of the Bengal Security Prisoners Rules, a copy of which is placed in the Library.

(*c*) A copy of the Bengal Security Prisoners Rules, 1940, has already been placed in the Library.

(*e*) The Bengal Security Prisoners Rules, 1940.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to question (*a*) (*ii*), *viz.*, whether communications with and correspondence to and from these prisoners are controlled and censored by the District Police, and in view of the fact that this rule 22 of the Bengal Security Prisoners Rules referred to in the reply lays down that the District Police Officers will censor the letters, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state on what authority the police officers other than the District Police Officers censor these letters?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I refer the honourable member to the Bengal Security Prisoners Rules.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I know that. My question is under what rules this power of District Police Officers has been taken by the Deputy Inspectors-General of Bengal? For instance, the letters written by and letters written to Mrs. Lila Roy are censored not by the District Police Officers but by the Deputy Inspectors-General of Bengal.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: How does this question arise out of this?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In reply to question (*a*) (*ii*) "whether communicatinos with and correspondence to and from these prisoners are controlled and censored by the District Police" you have referred to rule 22. It lays down that the District Officer is the competent authority to censor letters of prisoners detained in his district. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state under what rule the authority of the District Police Officer has been usurped by the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Bengal, in censoring the letters of Mrs. Lila Roy who is lodged in the Dinajpur Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Grievances of under-trial prisoners in different jails of Midnapore.

***99. Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state the total number of undertrials on the 20th June, 1943, in the different jails of the district of Midnapore?

(*b*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that the undertrials from the flood-affected areas form the major part;

(*ii*) that they are confined for many months without being prosecuted to any Court of Justice;

(*iii*) that they are clad in rags barely covering the loins; and

(*iv*) that they do not get any dish or cup for taking their food and drinking water?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps he is proposing to take in the matter to mitigate their suffering?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the jails of the Midnapore district are overcrowded with undertrials?

(*e*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps he proposes to take in the matter?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) 1,789.

(*b*) (*i*) Except in the Tamluk Sub-Jail, the major part of the undertrials does not come from the flood-affected areas.

(*ii*) A number of under-trial prisoners of the Contai and Tamluk subdivisions are still confined in the Midnapore Central Jail. They are always produced before the local Court for fresh remands till they are taken to their own subdivisions for trial. Some of the under-trial prisoners concerned in dacoity cases were detained in the Jhargram Sub-Jail for a few months which was absolutely necessary to complete investigation. In Tamluk, Ghatal and Contai Sub-Jails the under-trial prisoners are regularly produced before the Courts for necessary trials and there are no cases of long detention in these Sub-Jails.

(*iii*) No.

(*iv*) In the Midnapore Central Jail during the unexpected influx of a large number of prisoners there was scarcity of aluminium feeding utensils but they have since been supplied with necessary utensils.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) Yes, except the Ghatal Sub-Jail.

(*e*) The question of construction of *basha* accommodation in the Jhargram and Tamluk Sub-Jails to relieve congestion in these Sub-Jails is under consideration of Government. The Inspector-General of Prisons, Bengal, has already taken up the question of extension of the Contai Sub-Jail. As to the overcrowding of under-trial prisoners in the Midnapore Central Jail the measures for relief are being examined.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: In view of answer (*b*) (*iii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how it was ascertained that the clothings were not rags?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: From the report of the Superintendent it transpired so.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: With reference to answer (*b*) (*iv*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the special arrangement made for the influx of the large number of prisoners as regards their feeding utensils, clothing, etc.?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Those who were in rags were supplied with some clothings. So far as feeding utensils are concerned till the receipt of aluminium utensils meals were supplied in *sal* leaves.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long they were supplied with meals in *sal* leaves?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when did the Government come to know about the overcrowding in the sub-jail in Midnapore?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Soon after the overcrowding took place.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I want the date.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that due to overcrowding the general health of the prisoners has already deteriorated and diseases are prevailing there in various forms?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The honourable member refers to the present but this influx refers to a period in 1943 when due to famine there was a lot of undertrial prisoners and I explained to the House sometime ago in reply to a supplementary token cut motion that Government took certain measures in order to relieve congestion. These were premature releases of prisoners and dropping of charges against prisoners who were charged with offences which were brought about due to scarcity and famine conditions in Bengal.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how if there was no overcrowding the question of construction of temporary accommodation of the prisoners is still under the consideration of Government?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The position was acute and Government are examining the question of increased accommodation and, as I have already stated in reply to (*c*), the matter is being examined by the Inspector-General of Prisons. There was scarcity during a period in 1943 and the position was then very acute.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is aware of the fact that a large number of undertrial prisoners were taken to the *sadar* court and they were kept confined in a small room for all the time from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of it.

Regarding schemes sent for execution and approval by Executive Engineer in connection with "Grow More Food" scheme by District Board, Chittagong.

***100. Dr. SANAULLAH:** (*I*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many schemes were sent for—

(*i*) execution, and

(*ii*) approval by the Executive Engineer in connection with the "Grow More Food" scheme by the District Board of Chittagong;

(*b*) their—

(*i*) names,

(*ii*) cost involved in each case, and

(*iii*) dates of submission by the District Engineer; and

(*c*) (*i*) how many of them have since been approved and sent back to the District Board for execution; and

(*ii*) how many of them are being executed by Irrigation Department of the Government?

(*II*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(*III*) Is it a fact that these schemes are being sent back again and again to the District Engineer?

Mr. J. M. GUPTA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prasanna Pain): (*I*) (*a*) (*i*) Six schemes were suggested by the District Board of Chittagong for execution by this Department. No detailed projects based on hydraulic data were received. Rough estimates only were received.

(*ii*) Nine schemes were received from the District Board, Chittagong, for execution by the District Board after approval by this Department.

(*b*) The names, cost involved, and the dates of submission by the District Engineer are given in the two statements appended hereto.

(*c*) (*i*) No scheme has yet been sent back to the District Board for execution after approval by this Department. The present stages of the schemes are explained in the "Remarks" column of the appended statement II.

(*ii*) One scheme, viz., re-excavation of the Ichakhali Khal in police-station Mirsarai is proposed to be taken up this year. The present stages of the other schemes are explained in the "Remarks" column of the appended statement I.

(*II*) Attention is invited to the "Remarks" columns of the appended statements.

(*III*) This is not a fact as perusal of the "Remarks" columns of the appended statements will show.

STATEMENT I.

Schemes suggested by the District Board for execution by the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department.

Name of scheme.	Cost as estimated by the District Engineer.	Date of submission by the District Board.	Remarks.
	Rs.		
(1) Khandakia Irrigation Scheme in police-station Hathazari.	5,812	November, 1943.	From investigation made so far, the scheme does not appear to be feasible. Further investigation is being made.
(2) Re-excavation of Rakhali Khal in police-station Boalkhali.	5,258	November, 1943.	As the scheme involves a question of principle in the matter of lowering the bed of a railway bridge at the cost of the Provincial Government the matter is under consideration.
(3) Re-excavation of Ichakhali Khal in police-station Mirsarai.	26,350	November, 1943.	A detailed scheme amounting to Rs.60,750 has been sanctioned for execution this year.
(4) Improvement of Khuralia Hilmill Khal in police-station Satkania.	8,596	November, 1943.	Detailed investigation is being made.
(5) Re-excavation of Karantali Khal in police-station Hathazari.	2,328	November, 1943.	After detailed investigation this scheme has been found not to be feasible and has been dropped.
(6) Birulia Khal scheme in Rouzan	40,000	30th November, 1944.	The scheme is under investigation.

STATEMENT II.

Schemes submitted by the District Engineer to the Executive Engineer for approval and execution by the District Board.

Name of scheme.	Cost as estimated by the District Engineer.	Date of submission by the District Board.	Remarks.
	Rs.		
(1) Re-excavation of Patial Chari Chara in police-station Fatikchari.	12,252	16-9-1944	This scheme was returned to the District Engineer on 23rd October, 1944, as certain information was lacking and was received back on 2nd December, 1944. The scheme is now under scrutiny; if however the estimate stands at more than Rs. 10,000 this will not be a District Board scheme.
(2) Re-excavation of Kazir Khal in police-station Patiya.	18,616	16-9-1944	This was returned to the District Engineer on 23rd October, 1944, as certain information was lacking and was received back on 13th November, 1944 The scheme has since been approved by the Superintending Engineer. As however the cost is more than Rs. 10,000 execution will not be done by the District Board.
(3) Constructing embankment on the seashore in police-station Sitakunda, Section 1, from Sikdar to Karbakhali Khal.	7,953	16-9-1944	Returned to the District Engineer on 30th October, 1944, for further information and has not yet been received back.
(4) Constructing embankment on the seashore in police-station Sitakunda, Section II, from Karbakhali Khal to Sandwip Ferry Ghat.	8,888	16-9-1944	Ditto.
(5) Constructing embankment on the seashore in police-station Sitakunda, Section III, from Basarullah's House to Sonaichari Road.	5,633	16-9-1944	Ditto
(6) Constructing embankment on the bank of Feni river in police-station Mirsarai, Section I, from Mabarakghona to Robertganj Road.	9,979	16-9-1944	Ditto.
(7) Constructing embankment on the bank of Feni river in police-station Mirsarai, Section II, from Robertganj Road to a mosque in North Ichakhali.	9,979	16-9-1944	Ditto.
(8) Constructing embankment on the bank of Feni river in police-station Mirsarai, Section III, from the mosque in North Ichakhali to Khamar House in West Ichakhali.	9,356	16-9-1944	Ditto.
(9) Excavation of Mithachera Khal in Hathazari.	15,734	14-7-1944	The scheme was not found to be feasible and was dropped.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Medical treatment of security prisoner, Srijut Kedareswar Sen Gupta.

30. Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that Srijut Kedareswar Sen Gupta, a security prisoner, was recently admitted into the Medical College Hospitals for treatment of some malignant diseases;

(*ii*) that the doctors in attendance prescribed medicines and diet that would cost more than the scheduled rate of expenditure allowed to a security prisoner; and

(*iii*) that the Government having refused to provide the extra amount to cover the value of the prescriptions the security prisoner in question had to leave the Medical College Hospitals without treatment?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*)(*iii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons why Government refused to sanction the costs of prescriptions that were intended to cure the suffering prisoner?

(*c*) Will the Government consider the desirability of—

(*i*) allowing the necessary costs to enable the prisoner in question to undergo the prescribed treatment; and

(*ii*) making provisions for extra allowances required for the treatment of security prisoners when according to expert medical advice it is necessary?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*)(*i*) The prisoner was last admitted in the Medical College Hospitals on 18th October, 1943, as the Jail Superintendent apprehended that the patient was sinking in spite of the best available treatment in jail. On admission he was examined by the First Physician of the Medical College Hospitals who was of opinion that the prisoner's case was not serious and that he was suffering from only indigestion and the effects of the constipation which could be treated with proper diet. He was accordingly retransferred to Jail.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Sj. Kedareswar Sen Gupta, the security prisoner in question, has been confined to bed for the last 20 years and that at the time of his arrest he was carried to the jail on a stretcher.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The patient really complains of general weakness and he has been in bed for the last 14 years according to his own statement. That is true. He says that he has to remain in bed for general weakness. As regards other matters I have already referred to them in the reply.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Sj. K. Sen Gupta feels and has expressed that he may improve if he is transferred to any bracing climate somewhere else in the province?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of that opinion of his.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to question (*a*) (*ii*) and (*iii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to either place the correspondence that passed between the Medical College authorities and the Government or give us the substance of the correspondence that passed between them?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am unable to place the correspondence here. If the honourable member likes I can give the medical report on the prisoner's health.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell the House for how many days Kedareswar Babu was in the Medical College?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: In view of the fact that the medicines and diets prescribed in the Medical College are costly, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether these medicines and diets are being given to Kedareswar Babu?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the latest date of the medical report and what the medical report referred to by him is?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It is dated 5th December, 1944, and it runs as follows:—

Chest.—Heart regular in force and rhythm, sounds rather weak, otherwise no abnormality detected.

Lungs.—Clean, nothing abnormal. B. P. 112/90.

Abdomen.—Retracted, moves normally on respiration. Nothing abnormal discovered on palpitation.

Lower extremeties wasted from disuse. Muscular movements normal. Tendor jerk sluggish. There are Urticarial patches at present on the nape of the neck, left arm and lower limbs. These are occasional. They come and go and have completely resisted treatment.

Since his arrival in Jalpaiguri Jail, sputum has been examined on five different occasions with negative results. The latest report from Jackson Medical School Laboratory is attached.

Microscopical examination of stool on 1st December 1944 shows nothing abnormal. Blood on 1st December 1944 shows R. B. C. 4·66 mill per cm., W.B.C. 5,600 per cm. H.B. 73 per cent. (sahli). Differential count shows nothing abnormal. Patient has been on normal diet since his arrival in this jail, in addition he received one seer of milk and over one seer of fruits daily. He sleeps well.

The present state of health is indifferent, mainly on account of long confinement to bed. He makes no effort to get up and try to move about. The medical officer has been unable to discover any cause which would explain his symptoms. His weight stands stationary in this jail which is now 74 lbs. His health has actually improved since his arrival when he had a troublesome cough with a slight evening rise of temperature, anorexia, constipation and flatulence. These have all settled down at present.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who is the medical officer whose report has been read out and what are his medical qualifications?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He is the Superintendent of the Jalpaiguri Jail and probably he is the Civil Surgeon there.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Has he got any specialised qualifications for tuberculosis?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any X'ray photo was taken of this prisoner?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: From the report it appears that it was taken.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is considering the desirability of consulting an expert—a more capable physician or surgeon—in view of the report contained in the present medical report that the doctor concerned has not been able to ascertain the cause of his present condition?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He was put under a thorough examination so far as his chest, lungs, abdomen, and liver and spleen are concerned, but nothing abnormal except general weakness due to lethargy has been found.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, the report shows that the medical officer has not been able to ascertain the cause of the present condition of the patient. Therefore, does the Government consider the desirability of having that security prisoner examined by some other more competent specialist or more competent medical man?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He was not only examined by a doctor but there was a clinical and bacteriological examination also. His sputum was examined on five different occasions but they always proved negative and there was nothing abnormal or wrong with the security prisoner.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Government consider the desirability of allowing the prisoner to be examined by a doctor of his own choice at Government cost?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He has got the best medical attention including that of the first physician of the Medical College.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Government considering the desirability of taking an X'ray photo to see whether he is suffering from intestinal or pulmonary tuberculosis?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I might add that he was brought to Calcutta and was examined by the first physician of the Medical College who was of the opinion that there was nothing seriously wrong with the patient except chronic constipation.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Can the Hon'ble Minister tell us whether the patient was X'rayed?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot definitely say that, but from the report it appears that he was.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: In view of the Government reply that he was suffering from tuberculosis, will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of having him examined by a tuberculosis expert?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: If facilities exist in Jalpaiguri and if he has not been already examined, he will be examined.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of transferring him to Calcutta and have him examined?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That was done.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: With reference to the answer just given will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he was examined by any tuberculosis specialist in Calcutta?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Health of Srijut Brojendranath Das, a security prisoner.

31. Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether Srijut Brojendranath Das of Faridpur district, a security prisoner now in the Presidency Jail, Calcutta, was X-rayed recently?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the full report of the examination?

(*c*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that his both lungs have been affected;
(*ii*) that he has got blood pressure; and
(*iii*) that sugar has been found in urine examination?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of releasing him?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government contemplate to give him facilities to be treated under doctors of his own choice at his own expense, if so directed?

(*f*) If the answer to (*e*) is in the negative, what steps do the Government propose to take to get him cured of the illness?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) The prisoner has been detained in the Jadabpur T.B. Hospital since 3rd May, 1944, where he was last X-rayed on the 21st November, 1944.

(*b*) The report is as below—

Right side—No evidence of infiltration.

Left side—Five-sixth collapsed by A.P. with a long thin band of adhesion to the apical wall.

(*c*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) His blood pressure report is 128/78.

(*iii*) His sugar report is: Blood sugar 0·69 per cent. Urine sugar Nil, on 9th May, 1944. Trace on 12th October, 1944.

(*d*) to (*f*) The prisoner has already been transferred to the Jadabpur T.B. Hospital where he is getting all necessary treatment at Government expense.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer given that this security prisoner is suffering from blood pressure, diabetes and tuberculosis, does the Hon'ble Minister consider it desirable to release him immediately?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The prisoner has already been transferred to the Jadavpur Tuberculosis Hospital where he is getting all necessary medical treatment at Government expense.

Alleged assault on security prisoners in the Presidency Jail.

32. Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that in the evening of the 25th April, 1943, there was an assault on security prisoners in Presidency Jail by some of the Jail Officers, warders and ordinary prisoners;

(*ii*) that as a result about 30 of the security prisoners including Srijut Dharanath Bhattacherya, aged over 60 years, were seriously wounded;

(*iii*) that three of the security prisoners, viz., Srijuts Anil Ghosh, Usha Ranjan Roy and Murari Banerjee had to be removed to Medical College Hospitals that very night in a bleeding and unconscious condition; and

(*iv*) that the Hon'ble Home Minister was immediately informed of the incident?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Hon'ble Home Minister has visited the jail after the incident; and

(*ii*) if so, what steps he has taken to find out the culprits and to punish them;

(*iii*) whether—

(1) Srijut Nishitha Nath Kundu, M.L.A., lodged a complaint to the Chief Presidency Magistrate on the 27th April, 1943, through the jail office,

(2) Srijut Satyesh Bhattacherya filed a case in the court of the Chief Presidency Magistrate on the 28th April, 1943, and

(3) Srijuts Anil Ghosh and Usha Ranjan Roy jointly filed a case on the 6th May, 1943, to the Chief Presidency Magistrate through the jail office in the presence of Rai Bahadur Jagabandhu Bhattacharya, Deputy Commissioner, Special Branch (2);

(*iv*) whether it is a fact that as no case was started by the Chief Presidency Magistrate a notice was given to the Hon'ble Home Minister on the 10th June, 1943, by Srijuts Satin Sen, Nishitha Nath Kundu, M.L.A., Sibnath Banerjee, M.L.A., and 10 other security prisoners that unless Government took steps they would be compelled to take upon themselves voluntary sufferings like fasting, etc., after the 25th June, 1943;

(*v*) whether on the 25th June, 1943, the Deputy Secretary informed the security prisoners that the cases filed before the Chief Presidency Magistrate were sent back to the court by Government for disposal;

(*vi*) whether many of the accused and the witnesses have already been transferred or released from this jail;

(*vii*) whether any case has been started up till now (3rd September, 1943); and

(*viii*) what are the reasons for the delay in starting the criminal case after the application was made?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) and (*b*) The subject-matter of this question was fully dealt with in my reply to question No. 439, dated the 23rd June, 1944, asked by Mr. Sibnath Banerjee, and I refer the honourable member to the interpellations on that question.

(As soon as unstarred question No. 32 was called.)

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, this question may be held over as it relates to starred questions Nos. 94, 95 and 96 which have been held over.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If that is the desire of the House, let this question be held over.

(The question was accordingly held over.)

Grant of family allowance to detenus, Babu Jogesh Chandra Chakraborty and others.

33. Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether the following detenus made any applications stating the number of dependents and the income they had at the time of arrest for grant of allowances, viz.:—

(*i*) detenu Srijut Jogesh Chandra Chakrabarty now detained in Dacca Central Jail;

(*ii*) detenu Srijut Ramesh Chandra Ghosh now detained in Dacca Central Jail; and

(*iii*) detenu Srijut Nalini Chakravarty now detained in Dum Dum Central Jail?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether any enquiry has been made as to the facts stated in their applications;

(*ii*) whether allowances have been granted to them; and

(*iii*) if not, why not?

(*c*) Do the Government consider the desirability of granting allowances to them?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*)(*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) and (*c*) No.

(*iii*) *Babu Jogesh Chandra Chakrabarty.*—The security prisoner has no wife or child to maintain and was not earning anything before his arrest. There are several other earning members in the joint family which is self-supporting.

Babu Ramesh Chandra Ghosh.—The security prisoner is unmarried. His widowed mother is being maintained by his other two brothers.

Babu Nalini Nath Chakravarty.—The security prisoner is a bachelor and was unemployed before his arrest.

Grant of family allowances to certain security prisoners.

34. Mr. SATYAPRIYA BANERJEE: (*a*) With reference to the answer to starred question 23 on 16th February, 1943, regarding the family allowance of Srijut Narendra Nath Das, security prisoner now detained at Dum Dum Central Jail, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether he is contemplating to increase the allowance to Rs.75 per month, the amount he used to draw from the Bengal Mill Owners' Association?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that security prisoner Srijut Shyamcharan Biswas of Chittagong, a security prisoner of Dum Dum Central Jail, applied several times for the grant of family allowance;

(*ii*) that his application has been rejected;

(*iii*) that there is no other earning member in his family which consists of 6 members;

(*iv*) that the family is facing starvation; and

(*v*) that some of his properties have been sold in auction for arrears of rent?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) be in the affirmative, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to reconsider his case and save the family from starvation ?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that Srijut Dinesh Chandra Chakravarty of Dacca, a security prisoner now detained at Dum Dum Central Jail, applied for family allowance on 27th September, 1943, followed by several reminders;

(*ii*) that he managed a shop dealing with watches and electrical goods and earned on an average a net income of about Rs.100 a month; and

(*iii*) that after his arrest the shop is practically closed and fetches a very small income?

(*f*) If the answer to (*e*) is in the affirmative, does the Hon'ble Minister propose to grant him an adequate family allowance?

(*g*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that security prisoner Srijut Rameshchandra Chatterjee, B.L., a practising pleader of the Judge's Court, Dacca, and earning a decent sum, who was arrested on 30th June, 1941, and now has been detained at Buxa Special Jail, applied for grant of family allowance several times;

(*ii*) that his brother security prisoner Srijut Santimoy Chatterjee who was arrested on 20th April, 1942, and is now detained at Dum Dum Central Jail, also applied for the grant of family allowance several times, the date of application being 20th October, 1944;

(*iii*) that Srijut Santimoy Chatterjee earned an income of Rs.75 per month from jute business at Narayangunge; and

(*iv*) that their old father has been put to very great financial difficulties as a result of the deprivation of the income from the above two sources?

(*h*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether they have been granted any family allowance; and

(*ii*) whether Government contemplate giving their family consisting of 20 members any allowance?

(*i*) If the answer to (*h*) (*ii*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) No. The allowance has since been enhanced to Rs.30 per mensem.

(*b*) The amount is considered adequate in this case.

(*c*) (*i*), (*ii*) and (*e*) (*i*) Yes.

(*iii*) and (*iv*) The security prisoner is a bachelor, parentless and has no dependants to support.

(*v*) No. The properties referred to were sold on auction *before* his arrest.

(*d*) and (*g*) (*iii*), (*iv*), (*h*) (*i*) and (*ii*) No.

(*e*) (*ii*) and (*iii*) No. The shop is managed by his brother Babu Suresh Chandra Chakrabartty.

(*f*) Does not arise.

(*g*) (*i*) Yes, but he had practically no income as a pleader before his arrest.

(*ii*) No. He was arrested on the 12th April, 1942, and the date of his last application was 20th November, 1944.

(*i*) The two security prisoners had practically no income before their arrest. They have no wife or child to maintain. The father has an income of Rs.95 per mensem from his pay and Rs.2,000 per year from his jute business.

Appointment in Judicial Department.

35. Mr. PATIRAM ROY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many appointments have been made in his Department since January, 1942;

(*ii*) how many of them are—

(1) Clerks,

(2) Munsifs, and

(3) Sub-Judge; and

(*iii*) how many of them belong to (mentioning separately)—

(1) Caste Hindus,

(2) Scheduled Castes, and

(3) Muslims?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Public Service Commission recommends the appointment of Munsifs?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names, batch by batch, of those who have been recommended by the said Commission for the appointment?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many of them have already been appointed in the service (Munsif);

(*ii*) whether communal ratio has been maintained; and

(*iii*) the names of the appointed candidates?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSSAIN, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) (*i*) 1,576 excluding the number of Sub-Judges who are not appointed but are simply promoted from the rank of Munsifs by the High Court.

(*ii*) (1) Four hundred and eighty-two.

(2) Seventy-eight.

(3) No direct appointments are made to the posts of Sub-Judges and under section 255(*3*) of the Government of India Act, 1935, Munsifs are promoted to the rank of Sub-Judges by the High Court.

(*iii*) (1) Clerks 163, Munsifs 30 and Sub-Judges (*vide* answer to clause (*a*) (*ii*) (3).]

(2) Clerks 84, Munsifs 9 and Sub-Judges [*vide* answer to clause (*a*) (*ii*) (3)].

(3) Clerks 235, Munsifs 39 and Sub-Judges [*vide* answer to clause (*a*) (*ii*) (3)].

(*b*) and (*d*) (*ii*) Yes.

(*c*) The names cannot be disclosed as the matter is treated as confidential.

(*d*) (*i*) Please refer answer to clause (*a*) (*ii*) (2).

(*iii*) The list of names is placed on the Library Table.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that as a result of the recent appointments of Munsiffs there has been much deterioration of service?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: I am not aware of any deterioration of the service. All these persons were selected by the Public Service Commission and on their recommendation the appointments were made.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to the answer that the names cannot be disclosed as the matter is treated as confidential, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state since when has Government developed this mentality that the names of persons recommended by the Public Service Commission cannot be disclosed inasmuch as we had in this House previously any number of such recommendations brought to notice?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: I cannot tell the exact time when this system has been introduced, but so far as I know, the names of the persons recommended by the Public Service Commission but who have not been appointed are not generally disclosed.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the order of the recommendations of the Public Service Commission has been strictly followed in this case?

Mr. SYED ABDUL MAJID: Yes, Sir, absolutely strictly.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Arrest, detention and release of State and security prisoners since the assumption of office by the present Ministry.

*101. **Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing as on the 24th April, 1943, when the present Ministry assumed office—

(*a*) the number of political security prisoners detained under the Ordinance;

(*b*) the number of political prisoners detained under Regulation III of 1818;

(*c*) the number of such prisoners on the 31st August, 1943;

(*d*) the number of such prisoners released since the 24th April, 1943;

(*e*) the number of arrests made since the 24th April, 1943; and

(*f*) the law or the Ordinances under which they were arrested?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): The question is unintelligible as it is not clear what the honourable member means by the words "Ordinance" and "such prisoners" occurring in parts (*a*), (*c*) and (*d*) of the question——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir——

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, can he rise on a point of order in the midst of a reply being given? He cannot take cognizance of the reply at all till I have finished.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, I think it will be better for you to wait till he has finished.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That means, Sir, that he will take advantage of the position which is not regular.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: My point of order is this. This question was sent to the Assembly Department on the 4th of September, 1943, and therefrom sent to the Government department on the 9th of September, 1943, and as is evident from the printed answer given that reference was made to the member concerned, and that the member did not care to pursue

the question because Government took such a long time in dealing with the question that it was absurd and useless to seek to get information after the lapse of a year and a half. I would ask if the member concerned does not take any more interest and does not want any reply whether it is necessary or possible for your department to print or have this question printed or answered in a manner sought to be answered here because the member does not want any answer to the question. He has withdrawn it.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Well, this point was discussed once and possibly an agreement was reached that some questions should be withdrawn in view of the fact that the answers are not necessary now.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No, no. In this particular case, it was actually referred back to the Assembly Department and the Assembly Department referred to the member.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are correct that this question was received by the department on 4th September 1943 and sent to the Government Department on 9th September 1943 and no doubt it is unusually late, but it is not only the question of delay.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a reference to the member, he refused to say anything in the matter.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, it was, I think, on the 31st December, 1943, that your department referred the matter to the honourable member who put this question after getting a reference from the Home Department. It was not so late as Dr. Sanyal makes it out. If you refer to your own department—it was letter No. 15015L.A., dated the 31st December, 1943—you will find, Sir, that your department referred the point at issue to Mr. Roy for clarification and since then you have not heard anything in reply from him.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Therefore the question does not arise.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It is two or three months and not a year and a half, as he says. It was before December, 1943, that you got a reference from the Home Department and it was only on the 31st December, 1943, that your department referred the matter to Mr. Roy for clarification and he failed to reply to you within the period of one year and a half.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Therefore it should have been deemed as withdrawn.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The member should have written to that effect.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Khan Bahadur, you give your reply.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Moreover it is not clear from parts (*e*) and (*f*) if Government are required to furnish the number of all "arrests" including those falling under sections of the ordinary Penal Code——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, what is your ruling? If the member does not want, you cannot force him to get a reply.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: If he so likes, he can answer the question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The member does not like that he should get the answer.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would refer you to rule 32 of the Assembly Procedure Rules.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But the member does not want the reply.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not got anything from the member. I do not know whether Mr. Roy has written anything withdrawing the question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He has not written anything in answer to your query whether he wants to have the question answered or not. Therefore, it shows that he is not interested in the question.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question does appear in the order book and therefore it should come in.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It was wrong on your part to have this question on your order book. It is either a fault of your department or of the Government.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already drawn your attention to rule 32 of the Assembly Procedure Rules.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Which part of the Assembly Procedure Rules do you refer to? What does it show? If the member does not want an answer, it must still be answered?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He must notify his intention.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, I refer you to rule 32. You please read that rule. I have not got or my office has not got any communication from Mr. Roy withdrawing that question. It is printed, it is in the order book and it is a property of the House. I have allowed the honourable member to give the reply.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It was, therefore, referred back to the Assembly Department who have informed me that in spite of a request to the honourable member for clarification no reply has been received.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state whether in September, 1943, when the question was sent to the Government for answer, there was any Ordinance other than one Ordinance, *viz.*, Ordinance III of 1944, under which prisoners could be detained without trial?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state why the question was unintelligible with regard to that part, viz., the number of political prisoners detained under Regulation III of 1818?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It may not be so with regard to that part, but so far as (*c*) and (*d*)—the number of such prisoners—are concerned, it was not intelligible what the member meant by "such prisoners".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Such prisoners, I think, evidently meant prisoners under (*a*) and (*b*).

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No, it is not a question of opinion. Government are deliberately withholding the answer to the question because it is inconvenient.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Certainly not. Government attempted to get a clarification but they failed.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state on what point clarification is needed?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government wanted a clarification of the point at issue. I referred the point to the Assembly Department and the Assembly Department referred it to the member concerned.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We find the question is clear enough. Which portion of the question Government need clarification?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I refer the honourable member to his Leader who will explain to him.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state on what point the muddle-headed Government want any clarification?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the honourable member be pleased to state when Government do not understand anything, who can give them the brains to understand?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister please look into the question and say whether with reference to the context, viz., with reference to questions (*a*) and (*b*), questions (*c*) and (*d*) can be only explained in this way that the prisoners about whom information was asked for were either prisoners detained under the Ordinance, *viz.*, Ordinance III of 1944, or political prisoners detained under Regulation III of 1818?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government were not concerned either with their own interpretation of the question or the interpretation of Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu. Government wanted the interpretation of Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What was the difficulty in the interpretation? Which part did not enter the brain of the Government?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: This is not a question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, Government say "unintelligible". I wanted to know which part did not enter their brain.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That question was replied before.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to the answer that the question is unintelligible, my supplementary is, which part or which parts of this question could not enter the brain of the Government?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, can he put a question like that—"enter the brain of the Government"? If the honourable member will pay attention to the reply, I am sure that it will become at least clear to him—I do not know, it may take some time to enter his brain—but if he pays attention and devotes some amount of time, he will understand which portion of the question is unintelligible.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether we are to understand that Government has not the common intelligence to understand this clear question?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not allow that question.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the honourable member be pleased to state whether Government will consider the desirability of developing their brain a little further to understand these simple things?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not allow it. Next.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, it is a very important question.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have passed on to the next.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why should you?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Again, you put a question like "why should you". I have heard at least 5 or 6 questions and I have disallowed them. I will not allow any other question. Next.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: One question, Sir.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how they understood this question and how they are not accepting the interpretation that has been given by Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The question of accepting the interpretation of Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu does not arise. As I stated in my reply, we were not concerned with our own interpretation nor the interpretation which Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu now puts to it. We were concerned with the interpretation which Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy gave to his own question. We wanted some clarification on certain points. Government would have been pleased to answer that question if the points had been clarified, but no reply was received from the honnourable member up to December.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state for which portions or with regard to which points clarification was needed?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That you put before. How will it help you if you put that question again and again?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That question has not been answered.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot help you if it is not answered.

Sj. MANINDRA BHUSAN SINHA: Sir, if a question be sufficiently intelligible to you or to the House excepting the Treasury Benches and if the Treasury Benches avoid giving reply to it on the ground that it is not intelligible to them, what would be the position?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have given my decision on more than one occasion in matters like this, and I am sure members know and know very well that the rules provide for no protection. I think it does not require any further explanation.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to read out a letter that was written by Government to Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The Home Department wrote the letter to the Assembly Department and the Assembly Department referred the matter to the honourable member.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to read out that letter which Government wrote to the Assembly Department, so that we can understand the position.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have not got a copy of that letter with me now.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: What is the substance of that letter?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Why don't you ask the Leader of the Congress Party?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: I am asking you.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: If you refer to the reply I have explained the reason why a clarification was needed so far as the occurrence of the words "Ordinance" and "such prisoners" are concerned. Moreover it was not clear from parts (*e*) and (*f*) of the question if Government were required to give the number of all arrests including those falling under the ordinary Indian Penal Code or whether the honourable member only referred to arrests made under the Defence of India Rules and the Ordinance. It was not at all clear. Before Government could furnish any reply, Government wanted to have a clarification as to what sort of information they were desired to give. Government would have been too pleased to furnish this information, but no reply was forthcoming from the honourable member.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*f*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state wherefrom did they get the impression that the questioner wanted Government to furinish the number of all arrests under the Penal Code when the specific reference was that "they were arrested" or "such prisoners" as referred to above were arrested?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: First of all it was not clear what "such prisoners" referred to meant; secondly, whether he wanted the number of all arrests made since 24th April, 1943. So we wanted to make sure whether he was referring to arrests under certain specific laws or ordinance or all arrests made in the province of Bengal in question (*f*), namely, "the law or the ordinances under which they were arrested".

Illness and release of Babu Rabindranath Sikdar, a security prisoner in the Rajshahi Central Jail.

***102. Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that Babu Rabindranath Sikdar of Jalpaiguri, now a security prisoner in the Rajshahi Central Jail, has been suffering from chronic bowel troubles for about six months last;

(*ii*) that in spite of medical treatments in the Jalpaiguri and Rajshahi Jails, his troubles show no signs of improvement and he is rather growing worse day by day;

(*iii*) that he has also been suffering from slow fever; and

(*iv*) that he has lost about 25 lbs. weight since his arrest?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*i*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether his case has been properly diagnosed;

(*ii*) his present weight in comparison with his weight when he was first taken in the Jalpaiguri Jail after arrest; and

(*iii*) whether he is considering the desirability of releasing him on ground of health or granting him long leave for undergoing treatment outside?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) to (*iii*) While in the Rajshahi Central Jail the security prisoner had been suffering from various ailments, e.g., dyspepsia, slow evening temperature, enlarged liver, etc., and local treatment did not

produce any appreciable result. He was accordingly transferred to the Presidency Jail for examination by the Physician Specialist who has recommended his removal to the Medical College Hospitals. Orders have since issued to this effect.

(*iv*) No.

(*b*) (*i*) The Physician Specialist has provisionally diagnosed his case as chronic cholecystitis and hepatitis.

(*ii*) 97 lbs. and 102 lbs. respectively.

(*iii*) No.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the date from when he was suffering in Jalpaiguri and Rajshahi jails?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when it was brought to the notice of this Government that he was suffering and no improvement was indicated in spite of medical treatment by the Physicians in charge of Jalpaiguri and Rajshahi?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid I cannot give the date off-hand.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: When was he admitted into the Medical College?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot give the date. I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer given that he has shown no improvement, does the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of releasing him immediately?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government have passed orders for the admittance of the security prisoner as an indoor patient.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when that order has been passed and whether he has actually been admitted into the Medical College?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot give the date.

Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when this prisoner was transferred to the Presidency Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when he was transferred to the Medical College?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That question has already been asked and I have asked for notice:

Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJI: In answer to (*b*) (*i*) it is stated "The Physician Specialist has provisionally diagnosed his case as chronic cholecystitis and hepatitis". When was the diagnosis made?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot give the date of diagnosis, but the report from the Superintendent, Presidency Jail, mentioning all these is dated 18th November, 1944.

Dr. SHARAT CHANDRA MUKHERJI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the present condition of the prisoner?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot give the present condition, but I can give his condition as mentioned in the report dated November, 1944.

Increment of family allowances of security prisoners.

*103. **Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that all or some of the security prisoners who were enjoying family allowances even from April, 1942, were granted increments during the year 1942;

(*ii*) that the same security prisoners or some of them were granted cent. per cent. increments on the increased rates from April, 1943;

(*iii*) that Babu Girindra Kumar Basu Neogy detained in the Midnapore Central Jail as a security prisoner was not given any increment either in 1942 or in 1943 before April;

(*iv*) that an increment of Rs.15 per month was given to Girindra Babu with effect from the 1st April, 1943; and

(*v*) that the order sanctioning an increment to Girindra Babu was made not before April, 1943?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Hon'ble Minister has published a statement in "Banglar Katha" of the 26th July, 1943, stating that security prisoners getting no increment before April, 1943, were entitled to cent. per cent. increments?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether such increment has been granted to Girindra Babu; and

(*ii*) if not, the reasons thereof?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of granting an increment of Rs.20 to Girindra Babu?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) Yes. In some cases the family allowances sanctioned in 1942 were increased during 1942.

(*ii*) Yes, in some cases the family allowances were increased by 100 per cent. with effect from the 1st April, 1943.

(*iii*) to (*v*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*d*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of dependants Girindra Kumar Basu Neogy has to maintain?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the initial amount granted to him and what is the amount which is now being given to him?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that he has a daughter of marriageable age?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to make an enquiry about that and try to see that the marriage expenses be borne by Government?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I can give answers to some of these questions. I wanted notice because it would take some time. The family of the security prisoner consists of nine members. This is in answer to the question about the number of dependants. They have 2 *khadas* of land and a small *taluk*. The total income is Rs. 350 per annum. The prisoner had no income before his arrest. The prisoner had a business of pulses on one occasion, but he had to give up the business about 4 months before his arrest as a result of heavy loss. A family allowance of Rs. 35 was sanctioned with effect from 1st April 1942 and this has been enhanced to Rs. 50 under the present liberal policy of Government.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell the House who made this enquiry?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Is it a fact that this prisoner has got only a *taluk* property among three brothers, the income of which is Rs. 49 and odd annas?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The information of Government is that the total income from the property is Rs. 350 per annum.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that they have got only 21 bighas of land among the three brothers?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know the exact quantity of the land they possess.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to make an enquiry about the income of this property and about the *khamar* land of the prisoner?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know it will improve the position. The security prisoner according to Government had no income before his arrest—I mean, he was not earning anything. He was still given an allowance of Rs. 35 per mensem which has been increased to Rs. 50 per mensem in accordance with the Ministry's liberal policy.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to increase the allowance further in view of the fact that on the basis of Rs. 5-8 per head per month the family cannot be maintained?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That does not include the security prisoner himself who is being fed at Government cost.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House how many children the security prisoner has?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House that the report which he just now read was the first report submitted by the I. B. officer and afterwards on next approach Government made a second enquiry, on the result of which an allowance of Rs. 35 was given? Will he please look into the second report?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I did not read out any report of any enquiry. I simply read out the information that I had before me.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House the income of this man from the second report submitted by the I. B. officer of Mymensingh district?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already stated what was the information of Government regarding his income.

Increment of family allowances of some security prisoners.

*104. **Babu JNANENDRA CHANDRA MAJUMDAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether security prisoners Babu Ramesh Chandra Chowdhury, detained in the Mymensingh Jail, Babu Tarapada Ghosh, detained in the Presidency Jail and Babu Rabi Roy, detained in the Dacca Central Jail, have applied to the Government for the increment of their family allowances;

(*ii*) whether they have also applied to the Government for sanctioning the payment of their family allowances, already granted by the Government, from the dates of their arrest and detention; and

(*iii*) whether their family allowances have not yet been increased in accordance with the statement of the Hon'ble Minister, introducing a liberal policy as regards the increment of family allowances?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is considering the desirability of (*i*) increasing the amounts of their family allowances, and (*ii*) sanctioning the payment of their family allowances from the dates of their arrest and detention?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in the case of many other security prisoners family allowances have been granted not from the dates of their arrests and commencement of detention but from such subsequent dates?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of sanctioning the payment of all grants of family allowances from the dates of arrest and detention?

(*f*) If not, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason thereof?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) Yes, in respect of Tarapada Babu and Rabi Babu and not in respect of Ramesh Babu who has been granted the allowance with effect from date of arrest.

(*iii*) Family allowances of Ramesh Babu and Rabi Babu have been increased 100 per cent. No family allowance was originally granted to Tarapada Babu but subsequently Rs.20 per mensem has been granted to him on reconsideration. The liberal policy as indicated in my previous statements has been followed in these cases.

(*b*) and (*e*) No.

(*c*), (*d*) and (*f*) Family allowances to those security prisoners who were arrested during and after the disturbances of August, 1942, have generally been granted with effect from date of arrest excepting those whose cases were considered favourably on reconsideration after rejection. In other cases such allowances have been granted from subsequent dates as considered appropriate from the circumstances of each case.

Grant of family allowance to some political prisoners.

*105. **Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Government granted adequate maintenance allowances for the families of the following political prisoners who are being detained without trial:—

(*i*) Sj. Rohini Kanta Adhikary;

(*ii*) Sj. Santimoy Banerjee;

(*iii*) Sj. Sushil K. Bhadra;

(*iv*) Dr. Snehamay Chowdhury;
(*v*) Sj. Rakhal Dutta, Advocate, Federal Court of India;
(*vi*) Sj. Sukumar Dutt;
(*vii*) Sj. Harendra Nath Ghosh;
(*viii*) Sj. Kumud Ghosh;
(*ix*) State prisoner Dr. Nihar Ranjan Roy of the Calcutta University;
(*x*) Sj. Makhan Lal Sen;
(*xi*) Sj. Surendra Nath Sarcar of the district of Barisal; and
(*xii*) Professor Satkari Mitra (State prisoner);

(*b*) how many petitions and reminders Government received from each one of the above gentlemen, showing the (1) first, and the (2) last dates of such petitions in each particular case;

(*c*) what are the dates of their arrest and commencement of detention;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that—

(*i*) the dependants of Sj. Rohini Adhikary, consisting of his old father, wife and child have been left quite helpless and starving after his arrest;

(*ii*) that the detenu's old father, Nabakanta Adhikary Mahashaya of Kagdi village, under police-station Palong in the district of Faridpur, died of starvation on the 25th November, 1943;

(*iii*) that the wife and two children of Sj. Sushil K. Bhadra also died of starvation in course of three months between August and October, 1943;

(*iv*) that the dependants of Sj. Harendra Nath Ghosh consisting of his elder brother's widow and two nephews, at 31/4, Baikuntha Chatterjee Lane, Howrah, are left quite helpless and are incurring heavy debts and increasing liabilities on account of—

(1) arrears of house rent,

(2) telephone charges, and

(3) their current maintenance;

(*v*) that the old widowed mother of Sj. Kumud Ghose who is her only son, is left quite helpless as there is none else to look after her; and

(*vi*) that Sj. Suren Sarcar's wife, his only brother and brother's eldest son died of cholera in course of the third quarter of 1943 and the surviving members of his family consist of his old widowed mother, widowed aunt, his brother's widow, five minor children of his brother and his own child;

(*e*) what amounts, if any, have been granted as family allowances in each particular case mentioned above;

(*f*) whether the actual needs and wants of the families concerned were taken into consideration while fixing the allowances; and

(*g*) whether the provisions relating to allowance for State prisoners under Regulation III of 1818 are being complied with in case of State prisoners under the said Regulation.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*), (*c*) and (*e*) A statement is placed on the Library Table.

(*b*) and (*d*) The information asked for is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in war time.

(*f*) and (*g*) Yes.

Illness of Pandit Dharanath Bhattacharyya, a security prisoner.

*166. **Miss MIRA DUTTA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Pandit Dharanath Bhattacharyya, a security prisoner in the Presidency Jail is aged 62 and is suffering from palpitation of heart, general weakness and vertigo since he received severe blow and injury on his head on the 24th April, 1943, during a jail assault;

(*b*) whether only a few days back he fell down in his room unconscious and received injuries on his head and person;

(*c*) what arrangements have been made for his medical treatment; and

(*d*) whether the Government are considering the desirability of releasing him in view of his old age and bad health conditions?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Security prisoner Babu Dharanath Bhattacharyya, who is now aged 62, was one of the nine security prisoners who were injured at the time of a fracas between security and ordinary prisoners of the Presidency Jail on 25th April, 1943. His injuries have long been cured and he has no cardiac difficulties now.

(*b*) and (*d*) No.

(*c*) Adequate medical treatment has been given to him.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that this prisoner who is old is suffering from nervous breakdown, trembling of limbs and body and cataracts in both of his eyes?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He was examined by a neurologist and the medical opinion is that he is suffering from "anxiety neurosis."

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is he also suffering from cataracts in both of his eyes?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that he was given *Makaradhwaja* when he was in the Presidency Jail and that privilege was withdrawn at Dum Dum?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The position is this. The security prisoner was suffering from palpitation of heart. It was suspected that there might be some cardiac trouble. He was examined by a cardiologist whose opinion was that there was no cardiac trouble. But he advised that the prisoner should be examined by a neurologist. The opinion of the neurologist who examined the patient is that he is suffering from "anxiety neurosis". A certain treatment was suggested and therefore as there was a change of treatment, he was given bromide plus valerion and other things, into the details of which I need not go.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the information that I have supplied that he is suffering from cataracts in both of his eyes, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to release the old and infirm gentleman who would not be in any way dangerous to Government?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The medical opinion is that he is quite all right at present and adequate medical treatment is being given to him.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Why do you keep this almost dead man in jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He is all right now.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will consider the desirability of allowing the prisoner *Makaradhwaja* which he was given in his former place of detention?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Not being a medical expert I cannot say whether it will interfere with the course of treatment that is being given to him. No medicine can be given unless it is approved by the doctors who are treating him.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Government consider the desirability of consulting an expert Ayurvedic physician on the subject?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He was examined by all kinds of specialists including cardiologist, neurologist and other medical practitioners. Therefore I fail to understand what other expert should be consulted.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister think it desiarble to consult the medical officers who are treating him to allow him *Makaradhwaja* if it does not in any way harm him?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The question does not arise as to whether it will not in any way do him harm. The question is whether it will in any way interfere with the course of his treatment and whether it will do him any good. If it is found that it will not interfere with his treatment and that it will certainly do him some good, after obtaining medical opinion, that can be done.

Condition of health of Mr. Mukunda Bhanja and other security prisoners.

***107. Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that Mr. Mukunda Bhanja, a security prisoner, Dacca Central Jail, has been suffering from pleurisy, getting temperature and losing weight for nearly one year and has been an indoor patient in Mitford Hospital for over a month, without any improvement;

(*ii*) that Mr. Sasanka K. Bhowmik, a security prisoner, Dacca Jail, has been suffering from chronic dysentery and internal pain in acute form for nearly six months;

(*iii*) that Mr. Satyendra Bejoy Chakravarty, security prisoner, Dacca Jail, is suffering from high myopia and extreme weakness; and

(*iv*) that Mr. Sukhendra Dutta, security prisoner, Dacca Jail, has developed complete deafness of one ear and partial deafness of the other ear?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of getting the above security prisoners examined by specialists in Medical College, Calcutta, and arranging for their proper treatment without any further delay in view of the complicated nature of their diseases and also of the enormously long period of suffering they have already undergone and also of the serious condition of their health at the present time?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) and (*b*) Security prisoners Babus Mukunda Bhanja and Sasanka Bhowmik have since recovered from their ailments and are now keeping good health.

Security prisoner Babu Satyendra Bijoy Chakravarty was examined by the Professor of Ophthalmic Surgery in the Medical College Hospitals for his eye troubles but no treatment was advised necessary.

There is no security prisoner of the name of Sukhendra Dutta but the honourable member presumably means security prisoner Sukhendu Bikash Dutta. This prisoner was suffering from ear troubles for which he was examined by the Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist of the Medical College Hospitals and is now getting treatment according to his advice.

This shows that even if the members who put questions are not correct and if only Government can understand the reference aright, they certainly make every effort to supply the answer.

Family allowance for security prisoner Srijut Kanai Lal Das.

*108. **Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether security prisoner Srijut Kanai Lal Das detained in Dum Dum Central Jail made more than one representation for the grant of a suitable family allowance;

(*b*) whether the Hon'ble Minister is aware that his father and the joint family of which he was a member have been suffering much hardship owing to stoppage of Srijut Das's earning and pecuniary help; and

(*c*) whether the Hon'ble Minister is considering the desirability of granting him a suitable family allowance?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. The security prisoner had no income and was a dependent on his father before arrest.

(*c*) No.

Regarding issue of warrant of arrest against Sj. Sanat Kumar Roy Choudhury for holding a meeting.

*109. **Mr. ASHUTOSH LAHIRI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) if any warrant of arrest was issued against Sj. Sanat Kumar Ray Choudhury, ex-Mayor, Calcutta, for holding a public meeting at Shraddhananda Park without the previous sanction of the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta;

(*ii*) if the Police submitted a report to the Magistrate that Mr. Ray Choudhury had been absconding;

(*iii*) whether the Magistrate found the report to be absurd and untrue; and

(*iv*) what action has been taken against the officer responsible for such untrue report?

(*b*) If no action has yet been taken, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of punishing the officer concerned?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) if the warrant of arrest was subsequently withdrawn by the Government;

(*ii*) whether he was again arrested for violating the Lighting Restriction Order in respect of the same public meeting; and

(*iii*) whether the trying Magistrate dismissed the case and found the prosecution to be frivolous?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether similar prosecutions for violations of Lighting Restriction Order were launched against late Manindra Nath Mitter, Kiran Shanker Roy and Santosh Kumar Basu, ex-Minister, one after another;

(*ii*) whether all the persons were acquitted by the trying Magistrate;

(*iii*) the name of the official at whose instance these prosecutions were launched;

(*iv*) whether the Hon'ble Minister proposes to take suitable action against the official who persisted in action in such manner; and

(*v*) if not, why not?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) The Magistrate asked for an explanation as to why he was shown as absconding even though he was a well known gentleman and had a permanent residence at Calcutta.

(*iv*) He was dealt with departmentally.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) (*i*) It was recalled by the Chief Presidency Magistrate as Mr. Roy Chowdhury surrendered in court before it could be executed.

(*ii*) A summons was applied for and issued by the Chief Presidency Magistrate for his appearance in court.

(*iii*) The Chief Presidency Magistrate acquitted him on the ground that there was no evidence to connect Mr. Roy Chowdhury with the lighting.

(*d*) (*i*) and (*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) The prosecutions were started under the orders of the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta.

(*iv*) No.

(*v*) There is no necessity for taking any action.

Mr. ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: With reference to answer (*a*) (*iv*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what departmental action was taken against the officer?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: Will the Hon'ble Minister——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, order. The question time is over and this question is accordingly held over.

(The House was then adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

General Discussion on the Supplementary Estimates.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the present atmosphere of the House and in the inertia that is prevailing outside it is very difficult to speak with confidence and in expectation of results, but still one has to bide his time and has to carry on. It is obvious that the province is already tired of this Legislature; the Legislature is also tired of its members and the members are also tired of one another and the speakers are tired of everything.

Sir, in rising to speak on the Supplementary Estimates the very first thing that strikes me is that the expression "estimate" is a downright misnomer because it is not an estimate of anticipated expenditure but, as is obvious from the speech that was given by the Hon'ble the Finance Minister and from the figures which are available in the White Book that much of the figures relate to expenditure which has already been undertaken. This practice of putting estimates for sanction after the expenditure has been put into operation is against the acknowledged ethics of all finance

and as a matter of fact if we cursorily glance at the figures and the heads it appears that the supplementary estimates are as much a substantive budget as the main budget itself. Sir, on a point of order the other day Dr. Sanyal raised this question and as a proposition of financial morality I insist that this practice of bringing in estimates for sanction as a post-mortem verdict should be discontinued by all means because the House, particularly the party supporting the Government, is likely to speak out more clearly and frankly when the matter to be sanctioned relates to the future. But when it is a question of fact accomplished certainly the party behind the Government will not be in a position to offer their considered opinion regarding the justification or otherwise of the whole matter.

Now, Sir, I must confess that in spite of the dreary outlook which is given by the estimates there are certain very interesting and redeeming features. If you look at the head "Civil Works", page 26, you will find that big sums are asked for repairing buildings which are at 8, Theatre Road, and 31, Theatre Road. At page 26 for repairs to 8, Theatre Road, for the accommodation of the Hon'ble the Chief Minister, there is a provision of Rs. 40,000 and for the conversion of 31, Theatre Road, into a hostel for officers of superior status Rs. 35,000. Sir, we are hearing of rehabilitation. It has taken the place of charity and rehabilitation must begin at home. The Chief Minister must have a good house and it requires repairing and it has got to be made more beautiful by repairing and therefore, as we say in Bengali, Gauri Sen must be made handy and available for that purpose. No. 31, Theatre Road, is also his property and that has also to be put into repair at Government cost. I will not make any comment upon the propriety or otherwise of the action taken but I will put one question. If these two houses of the Hon'ble Minister require repairing at Government cost, are we to understand that the houses of the other Ministers and of the Parliamentary Secretaries also do not need such repairing or is it a beginning only by way of an approval of the House to the repairing of the Chief Minister's houses and that the others will follow suit? Just one very handy and constitutional question occurs to my mind. Supposing the Chief Minister ceases to be functioning as a Minister, not by being defeated or by any natural calamity; supposing he is tired of this House and takes it into his head to resign, what will be the position of these 35,000 and 40,000 rupees which will be spent today? I hope the Hon'ble the Finance Minister will make the legal position of this investment perfectly clear.

Now, Sir, it is also clear that this contribution is an addition to the emoluments which are given to the Ministers by virtue of the Act in the shape of salary. The salary has been determined by an Act of this Legislature and so long as that Act remains extra remuneration cannot be given under the law without the sanction of this House. Therefore this is only a backdoor device of giving more money to the Ministers. The members have got something by amendment——

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Not at all. The Chief Minister will have to pay rent.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: What about capital investment?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: They are only repairing 8, Theatre Road, a Government property.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is it a contribution to the owner of the house or is it a contribution *ex gratia* for the Minister himself?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is there any house belonging to a private party being repaired at Government cost? Can you quote a single instance anywhere where a private house is being repaired at Government cost?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: 8, Theatre Road, is not a private house; it is Government property.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think no useful purpose will be served by this. The Hon'ble Minister will get time to give his answers.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: The Hon'ble Minister himself became restive and interrupted and he invited counter-interruption from this side.

Now, Sir, I will just ask the Hon'ble Minister to educate this House and to edify and to give an instance as to whether this practice which has been introduced by the Bengal Government today has any precedent, moral or otherwise, known to him. (The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Yes.) There is an interjection "yes". Will he also further clarify what will be the position of this money if this particular Minister ceases to function today, and what was the reason for making such a big investment only to put a little extra comfort to a particular Minister?

Then, Sir, coming to General Administration, you will find that at page 11 there are several heads on which money has been asked, to wit, a Joint Secretary for the Department of Public Health and Local Self-Government. Sir, I admit that there has been a necessity but this is not a necessity for the province or the Government: it is a necessity for the party behind the Government. It is well known today that from Union Boards right up to District Boards and Municipalities there is a network of agents who are under the direct control of the forces behind the Government, and nefarious attempts are being made at the instance of members belonging to the Government party to expand their sphere of influence to all these self-governing institutions so much so that everywhere Government are trying to have their own men, particularly through elections adopting questionable means, and so far as nomination is concerned, each and every berth is being given to men who are avowedly behind the Government.

I will quote, Sir, several instances. The question of division of unions into wards is being dealt with according to Government's convenience. Unions are kept entire if it suits the Government party; they are divided into wards in such a way that when they are defeated the parties belonging to Government can get upper hand and nominations are entirely given by the District Authority on a certificate and recommendation saying that these men are of the Government party, and this Joint Secretary has got the proud distinction of being responsible for recommending to Government to set aside a valid election in the Jangipur Municipality of Murshidabad. There was an election; the Chairman elected was a Scheduled Castes man and the defeated man was a Muslim Leaguer of the Government brand. The validity of the election was questioned; the matter was referred to all law officers including the Advocate-General. The election was found to be valid by all the lawyers but this Joint Secretary sent a note that there has been some irregularity and there must be re-election, and I am making a prediction that in course of two weeks Government will say that re-election is not possible in view of certain technical difficulties: therefore there must be an appointment by the Government.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Since when astrology has become your strong point?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Since we found you corrupt.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Corruption and nepotism of the Bengal Government can be read by everybody, no astrologer is necessary.

Then, Sir, regarding the Publicity Department, what is the necessity of this department at all? If the Government want facts and figures to be published, the practice of bringing press reporters to a conference can be extended everywhere. There are well known papers; their assistance may

be sought. The press reporters in the district towns and subdivisional towns can be requisitioned and the District Authorities and Members of Government can have their news and views ventilated through the existing press forum. Why create a Government department for this? The reason is obvious. A screen has to be drawn over deaths and calamities which were ventilated through non-official press, and therefore a device has been introduced for creating a machinery through which the Ministers will have their own propaganda. The Government will try to flourish a gilded side of the administration and incidentally it will be an attempt for concealing actual truths which happen, which show deaths, calamities, diseases, corruption and all that.

Now, Sir, coming to the question of Administration of Justice, there is at page 13 a note that the increase has been on account of Law Officers because there have been a large number of cases particularly under the Defence of India Rules. We want the Government to understand that the Defence of India Rules have provided a bumper feast to local officials and a great deal of discrimination is made. A man even if he is accused of the most heinous offence under the Defence of India Rules can purchase his safety and the case is withdrawn if he can pay handsomely to the War Fund or its sister fund the Red Cross Fund, but in those cases in which parties are not able or do not care to pay, they are victimised or hounded by petty prosecutions and their persecution knows no bounds. Therefore the Government owe a duty to themselves and to the country at large by setting up a machinery which will stop this invidious distinction and discrimination.

Sir, coming over to Police, at page 15 something is paid to the District Police. How one wishes that today the District Police cease to exist because if the District Police have one function today it is to have their quota from all sorts of shops. They threaten the cloth dealers and other dealers with prosecution and there is a system all over Bengal by which every Thana Officer gets a monthly quota from every respectable and disrespectable dealer. Why then pay more money from the Government coffer in order to have more dishonest officers? When the crimes cannot be stopped Government take recourse to appointment of Special Constables and that adds insult to injury in the whole matter.

Coming to the question of "Medical", there has been provincialisation in respect of sadar and subdivisional hospitals. Yesterday my good friend Khan Sahib Hamiduddin Ahmad in reply to a question said that the Government had taken over administration because they wanted to improve the hospitals. This is an arrant lie because the hospitals whch have been taken over by Government have been thrown into the cold shade of neglect. As I said yesterday in my question, there are cases in which Tincture Iodine is not available for ordinary patients and if you look at the F. R. E. hospitals side by side with the ordinary hospitals you will find that the F. R. E. hospitals are dependable and they have got some equipment, but so far as ordinary hospitals which have served so long under private management are concerned, they have been thrown out of gear completely and the Government have not spent a single pie up till now in respect of the majority of these hospitals. It is only a question of idle promise. Sir, the history is also such, as we ought to know, that when there was a pressure in the military sense under military directions Government took over the administration, so that the injured persons might be shifted on and they were taken over under protest, but assurances were given that they would be looked after. But I say, Sir, with all the emphasis at my command that not only no assistance has been given but that there has been neglect, increasing neglect and patients are suffering enormously.

Coming over to the question of Industries and Co-operation you will find that it is stated that for handloom industries something more is paid. If the Government of Bengal could be prosecuted by these petty weavers that would have been the proper treatment which could be given to them. In

the name of handloom weavers and silk weavers, yarn and silk are being distributed through agents who had no dealings in the past either with textile or with silk. The Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy is not here. Even four days back one Afsar Hakim of Murshidabad, whose only qualification is that he happens to frequent the place of the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy, got 50 bales of yarn in this market, and the consignment reached Berhampore without any previous recommendation or knowledge of the District Magistrate. He is a man of straw, but he got 50 bales, because he had the fortune of being a favourite of the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy. The District Magistrate in his goodness stopped the delivery, but since the Minister's *fatwa* was there, he had arranged that the distribution should be made through the Co-operative Society (I was present when the arrangement was made). Simply because he placated the Hon'ble Minister, therefore the profit will be given to this Afsar Hakim. The profit will amount to at least Rs. 2,500. If the matter had been left to him entirely it might be Rs. 75,000 according to the estimate of that gentleman and there would be no end of blackmarketing. This is how things are being done.

The most lamentable feature of the whole thing is the treatment that is being meted out to the political prisoners of Bengal. Sir, speeches have been made from all sides of the House on many occasions asking for their release and asking for giving them proper amenities. At page 30 there is a figure of Rs. 1,61,500 as if money is the only thing that is necessary for these prisoners. We do not know how long this heartless detention of healthy young men will continue. No end seems to be in sight. Some are in detention for more than four years, some are in detention for two or three years, and we have been told that it is wartime emergency that requires their detention.

We hear of post-war reconstruction and everything, but I am making an appeal to the Government: have not these families—these helpless and unfortunate families—have not these precious lives of Bengal any place in the post-war reconstruction of our Province? If families and precious lives perish, what shall we do with post-war reconstruction of X, Y and Z? Why are they in detention now? The August disturbances have long been over. Some releases have taken place and there has been no reversion to any calamity. Why should it be necessary for Government to keep them in detention? What is the difficulty in getting them released? I expect Government to make the position clear. Is it their policy that these people should be kept in indefinite detention? Is their policy influenced by the policy of the Central Government or by the Department which seems to be stiff in its attitude? Sir, words will not carry us very far in this matter, but it is expected that the Hon'ble Ministers will devote a little bit of human attention to this aspect of the matter. The information is coming that a large number of them have been lying very very ill. One Bijoy Nahar cannot have an interview unless he is helped by a stretcher. Is he a character to be kept in detention on the ground of security? What is the security which requires such detention? The arrests were preventive. What catastrophe is to be prevented now? Mahatma Gandhi has been released. Many big people have been released, but there has been no revival of anything which can be considered subversive. Even in Bengal large number of undesirable have been let out of the prisons, but there has been no reversion to anything which can be considered undesirable or subversive Sir, questions after questions have elicited and our information is that some of our precious comrades have even lost a bit of their sanity. After all they are human beings. They are patriots, they are prepared to suffer, but there is a limit to their sufferings, and this aspect of the matter should not be lost sight of by the Government. Sir, a few doles or liberal policy will not carry us far. It is not a solution. A bold experiment has to be made and a beginning ought to be made here and now. No experiment has been made by even home internment. There are large numbers who are in detention for more than four years. They have been

isolated from the political currents of the country. If the Government thinks that a large-scale release cannot be taken up at once, the matter can be handled by driblets and by graduation. Some of them can be kept under observation in home internment as a step towards release. Some of them can be released forthwith, and if Government finds that after release there is any menace to security, it will take only five minutes to bring them back to jails. I therefore appeal to the Ministers humbly to look up to this humanitarian matter and to do the least that ought to be done. The Chief Minister is not here, nor his Parliamentary Secretary is here, but the Hon'ble Mr. Goswami is in my front and may I make an appeal to him that in this matter if he likes to discuss the difficulties and methods with the Leaders of the Opposition he can invite the leaders of all parties including the leaders who are supporting the Government and the Opposition and they can find out ways and means with a view to ending this deadlock. After all they are our men, after all their lives have been useful to the cause of politics and to the cause of the Province. They may suffer but their sufferings must have an end, and if Bengal has to march forward to a real future, then Bengal's heroes and men and women must come out, otherwise it will be writ large upon the brow of the present Government "Callousness and heartlessness thy name is Bengal Ministry".

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is extremely difficult to discuss about the Supplementary Estimate which comes to Rs. 65 crores, i.e., five times the ordinary revenue of the Province, specially it is difficult to discuss about the estimate which is presented in the Budget Session. Apart from the legality of the matter under section 81 of the Government of India Act, this policy of presenting the Supplementary Estimate after the whole amount had been spent cannot be too strongly condemned. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is further regrettable that a point of order has been raised on this point, but it has not been decided either by the Speaker or by the Deputy Speaker. The policy cannot be condemned too strongly. I hope—I know I cannot hope—that this thing will not be repeated in the next year, if the Assembly continues to function till that time. Then, Sir, in considering the Supplementary Estimates the first thing that must strike every body is the estimate of Civil Supplies. "Civil Supplies" has been another name for corruption and bribery, and it is still another name for corruption and stealing. Whenever any question is raised with regard to "Civil Supplies" Government say that they are unable to do much because there is a blackmarket. But extra police has been provided for to detect blackmarketing. Under Extraordinary Charges you will find there is an item "extra Police" for dealing with offences relating to Civil Supplies, and provisions have been made of Rs. 1,08,000 for pay of establishment and Rs. 1,17,000 for allowances, honoraria, etc. If a person writes a letter in which there is something about politics the letter is censored and he is arrested, but a person who clearly and openly is taking recourse to blackmarketing is not arrested. I know that some cases are placed before the courts but those cases concern the poor people who cannot pay the extra police. Cases of big people who can pay the extra police and who, as a matter of fact, pay the persons in authority are not before the court and hence blackmarketing. So far as blackmarketing is concerned it is encouraged by the persons in authority. You know also, Sir, that if a person wants to be appointed a dealer and wants to have a few bags of sugar he is required to pay a certain amount. In my own subdivision (Brahmanbaria subdivision) there was an exhibition fund started, I believe, in the year 1937 or 1939 and any one who approaches the Subdivisional Officer for a permit for dealing in sugar is required to pay Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 towards that fund. This certainly encourages blackmarketing. It is the Government who are responsible for blackmarketing. If they cannot detect blackmarketeers it is they who are responsible for blackmarketing.

So far as Civil Supplies are concerned the department has absolutely failed to do its duty. Ordinarily, Civil Supplies are for regulating supplies for equitable distribution among the people. So far as rural areas are concerned they have been neglected. I do not know of the conditions of other subdivisions in the province but I know that so far as the Brahmanbaria subdivision is concerned one bag of sugar containing 2¾ maunds is supplied. A union in my district has a population of not less than 12,000 people. So you see that one bag of sugar is supplied to a union containing on an average a population of 12,000. Is this equitable distribution? Whatever quantity is supplied to the towns people is not supplied to the rural people. Can that be called equitable distribution? So far as sugar is concerned in the months of January and February not a grain of sugar was supplied to the whole subdivision of Brahmanbaria. In the month of October 1/8th of the quota was supplied and in November ¼ of the quota was supplied. In December half the quota was supplied and in January and February, as I said before, not a grain was available in the entire subdivision of Brahmanbaria. I do not know what is the position with respect to other areas but I am quite sure this is the picture throughout the whole area of the Province of Bengal. In January and February people who were suffering from fever, cholera, etc., did not get sugar. That is the position so far as sugar is concerned.

Coming to kerosene the position is almost the same. I know that 50 or 60 tins are supplied to one union per month. That is the position. One union, as I already told you, consists of 12,000 people. These 12,000 people are getting 50 tins. Those who are friendly to the present regime get one tin for one month. That is undoubtedly an inequitable distribution.

When you come to cloth the situation is deplorable. The other day, the Commerce Member of the Government of India, Sir Azizul Haque, has stated in the Central Legislature that 75 per cent. of the cloth demand has been supplied to Bengal. The normal requirement in pre-war days is 16 yards per head and it has been said that 12 yards per head has been supplied to Bengal. If the statement of Sir Azizul Haque is true we have got 75 per cent. of our requirements. Now what is the position. Everywhere, there is what one may call cloth scarcity. I approached the Subdivisional Officer in this connection. Before I came here I went and saw him on behalf of 60 members of the District Bar who had shifted to Brahmanbaria. The Subdivisional Officer supplied us with 10 pairs of sarees for 60 members. That we got after 6 months. What could we do? We could not please every body. So a lottery was held and the lucky people got each a saree. That is the position in Brahmanbaria. What is the position so far as the villages are concerned? No villager is allowed to purchase a single piece of cloth without a chit from the Circle Officer. The villagers who live about 20 or 30 miles away from the Brahmanbaria town have to come to the Brahmanbaria town and get a chit from the Circle Officer, and then obtain a piece of cloth from the dealer. That was the question that I put in the course of supplementary question the other day. The Hon'ble Minister in charge of Civil Supplies replied that that might be possible. In order to avoid the trouble of journey and the cost of staying in a town for a day or two people generally prefer buying in the blackmarket. Therefore I suggest that dealers must be appointed in local areas. At present dealers have not been appointed in local areas. The dealers who have been appointed for the subdivision of Brahmanbaria live in Brahmanbaria town and people have to come from the villages. Many people have approached me and asked to do something to remove this tyranny. They do not know that these grievances cannot be removed. Really the Hon'ble Minister for Civil Supplies knew that we discussed this matter but he is not here and he is not willing to remove our difficulties. Still it is our duty——

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: He prefers to be in other places.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: But he has got to be here.

Sir, every one knows the condition in Bengal but it is also well known that the Hon'ble Minister is not at all serious about it. If, as a matter of fact, he was serious we could have met together and tried to remove the grievances of the people of Bengal. The Government of India have said that they have supplied 75 per cent. of Bengal's requirements. But we do not know whether the statement of the Government of India is correct or not. It may be that this 75 per cent. has not been supplied. So far as the cloth question is concerned we have heard that a large proportion of India's production is exported to foreign countries. It is exported to Egypt, Iran and Iraq. I wonder how we can export our production to foreign countries when there is a regular famine in our own and we want to know therefore whether the things produced in this country have been really exported to foreign countries. We want to know the real situation, but the Hon'ble Minister in charge is not serious in the matter. He says that the Marwaris are responsible, as if he is not responsible. If the Marwari is responsible for blackmarketing, the Hon'ble Minister is equally responsible for not detecting the blackmarketing in time.

Then with regard to post-war reconstruction I want to say something. In answer to a question with regard to Post-War Reconstruction Committee, we have come to know how the Post-War Reconstruction Committee has been functioning.....(At this stage the member reached his time-limit but was allowed to conclude his speech in two or three minutes.) In answering that question it was said that the various sub-committees of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee have not been sitting. There has not been even one sitting and they have not submitted any recommendation to the Government of India regarding post-war reconstruction. I am quite sure that if you see the answer to that question you will be convinced that nothing has been done. The Bombay Government have submitted their recommendations and several other Governments have done so, but we are not serious in the matter and we have done nothing. The Committee did not sit and has not been functioning and has not sent any recommendation. We hear that the war will soon come to an end and that the post-war reconstruction work will soon begin. But Bengal's case of post-war reconstruction will go by default because Bengal has not made any recommendation and therefore does not deserve any money from the Government of India.

Then, Sir, I shall refer to another item, namley, the special rural uplift work. Under this head the excess under "Contingencies" is for the replacement of casualties among stud bulls which were originally purchased out of Government of India Rural Uplift grant. I know that all the bulls that were purchased have since died. There was corruption even in the matter of feeding the stud bulls and as a result of starvation they have all died. Then there is a scheme for the multiplication of goats, and I have heard from a person who has got the authority to speak on the matter that five thousand goats have been placed in charge of one man. So far as the top-heavy administration is concerned, there is no bar to increasing the number of high officials but so far as officers of lower status are concerned you will find that there is only one Sanitary Inspector for each thana and only one person has been placed in charge of 5,000 goats. The result has been that all the goats that were purchased have since died like the stud bulls about which I have just spoken.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Stud bulls will die but the Ministers will live.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Now, Sir, I want to say a few words about mepacrine. Malaria was in an epidemic form but it is no longer so now. But mepacrine used to be sold at the rate of Rs. 28-12 for 1,000 pills, to wholesale dealers and the retailer must sell them at Rs. 31-4, that is, he can make a profit of Rs. 2-8 for 1,000 pills. A dealer is required to

purchase 4,000 pills and for that he can make a profit of Rs. 10 only. A dealer who comes from an outlying area of over a distance of twenty or thirty miles had to spend more than Rs. 15 and so for him the mepacrine business cannot be a profitable one. The result was that mepacrine was not available in rural area for want of dealers. Moreover, Sir, mepacrine is now going to be supplied only through post office when malaria epidemic has subsided after people have died of malaria in thousands without any proper treatment for want of medicine.

Before I sit down, Sir, I want to say that there has been a necessity for this supplementary estimate on account of the war, a war which, as I have repeatedly stated, is not a war for the deliverance of India but for the perpetuation of India's slavery and for the continuance of British Imperialism in India. This war is not a war for the independence of India. This war has been thrust upon India without India's consent. If any money is required for any expenditure necessitated by war, that money must not be paid by the Government of Bengal nor by the Government of India but the money should be paid by His Majesty's Government for whose benefit the war is being fought. So I submit that these supplementary estimates cannot be accepted by us because it has been necessitated by the present war conditions, a war which has been thrust upon us and a war which is not a war for the independence of India. With these words, Sir, I resume my seat.

Maulvi ABDUR RAZZAK: ডেপুটী স্পীকার মহোদয়! বাংলা সরকারের বাজেট সমালোচনা করিলে এই দেশকে দেউলিয়া এবং চোরের মুল্লুক বলিয়া বলা যাইতে পারে এবং শাসন-প্রণালী লক্ষ্য করিলে ফেরাউন ও এজিদের শাসননীতি স্মরণপথে পড়িয়া থাকে। আমি প্রত্যেকের অল্প-বিস্তর কারণ বিশ্লেষণ করিতেছি। মন্ত্রী মহাশয় যখন ৬১ কোটি টাকা ক্ষতির পরিমাণ বাংলার ৬ কোটি নরনারীর উপর চাপাইয়াছেন তখন বাধ্য হইয়া এই দেশকে দেউলিয়া দেশ বলিয়া ঘোষণা করিতে হইবে, অন্যথা এ দেশের লোকের জীবন যাপন করা দুষ্কর হইয়া যাইবে। যখন কোন পরিবারের আয় হইতে দেনার হার অতিমাত্রায় বাড়িয়া যায় এবং ভবিষ্যতেও উহা শোধ করিবার কোন উপায় থাকে না তখন বাধ্য হইয়া তাহাকে দেউলিয়া খাতায় নাম লিখাইতে হয়। মন্ত্রী মহাশয় ৬৫ কোটি টাকার অতিরিক্ত বাজেট ধরিয়া আয় ব্যয়ের সামঞ্জস্য রাখিতে পারেন নাই, এবং নূতন কর দেশবাসী বহন করিতে অক্ষম, এমত অবস্থায় তাঁহার পক্ষে চিরাচরিত পথ অনুসরণ করা ভিন্ন উপায় কি? ১৯৪৩-৪৪ সালের খাদ্যশস্য বিক্রয়ের লোকসান সংশোধিত বরাদ্দের তুলনায় প্রায় দ্বিগুণ হইয়া ৯ কোটি ৩৯ লক্ষ টাকার উঠিল কেন তাহার কোন কৈফিয়ৎ মাননীয় অর্থসচিব মহোদয় দেন নাই। ১৯৪৩ সালে গমজাত দ্রব্যাদি বিক্রয় করিয়া অত্যধিক মুনাফা করিয়াছিলেন। ঐ মুনাফাবাজির তদন্তের জন্য কেন্দ্রীয় সরকার যে তদন্ত কমিটি গঠন করিয়াছিলেন ঐ কমিটি ৩০শে ডিসেম্বর যে রিপোর্ট দাখিল করিয়াছেন তাহাতে দেখা যায় যে, অষ্ট্রেলিয়ার গম ৭।/০ মণ দরে কিনিয়া ১২৸০-১০।৵০ দরে বিক্রয় করিয়া ১ কোটি ৩৯ লক্ষ টাকা লাভ করিয়াছে। এই হিসাবে ধান, চাউল প্রত্যেক জিনিষ বিক্রয় করিয়া লাভবান হইয়াছে লোকসান হয় কেমন করিয়া? ইহার নজির বাহির করা কঠিন। অতএব বলিতে হয় মন্ত্রী মহাশয় যে হিসাব দিয়াছেন ইহা সম্পূর্ণ অবুলক, চুরি করা ভিন্ন ক্ষতি হওয়ার কোন কারণই দেখা যায় না। মন্ত্রী মহোদয় কোন বিস্তারিত হিসাব দাখিল করেন নাই। যাহা দেখান হইয়াছে তাহাতেও ৪ কোটি টাকার গরমিল দেখা যায়। ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়! আপনার যোগে গভর্ণমেণ্টের সমর্থক বেঞ্চর মহোদয়গণকে জিজ্ঞাসা করিতেছি যে কোটি কোটি টাকার বাজেট বিনা হিসাবে পাশ করিয়া দিয়া তাঁহারা কি সোনার বাংলাকে উজাড় করিয়া দিতে চাহেন, এবং তাঁহাদের নাম ঐ চুরির খাতায় লিখাইয়া চোর আখ্যা পাইতে ইচ্ছা করেন? আমি প্রস্তাব করিতেছি যে অতি সত্বর ট্রাইবুনাল বসাইয়া নরহত্যা করার অপরাধে এই মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর বিচার করা হউক, কেননা তাঁহাদেরই কার্য্যের ত্রুটিতে ৩০ লক্ষ লোক প্রাণ বিয়োগ করিতে বাধ্য হইয়াছে।

ডেপুটি স্পীকার মহোদয়! বাংলার বস্ত্র-সমস্যা যেরূপ দিনের পর দিন শোচনীয় আকার ধারণ করিতেছে তাহাতে অনেকের মনে আশঙ্কা জন্মিতেছে যে বাংলা দেশ ন্যাংটা মুল্লুকে পরিণত হইতে পারে। যখন কলিকাতা সহরেই আবশ্যকানুরূপ কাপড় পাওয়া যাইতেছে না তখন মফঃস্বলের যে কি অবস্থা হইতেছে তাহা সহজেই অনুমান করা যাইতে পারে। মফঃস্বলের অনেক স্থান হইতে কাফনের কাপড়ের অভাবের সংবাদ প্রত্যহ সংবাদপত্রে পাওয়া যাইতেছে। রাত্রিতে যে ব্যক্তির মৃত্যু হয়, কাফনের অভাবে সমস্ত দিন দফন করা যাইতেছে না। অনেক ক্ষেত্রে

পুরাতন কাপড় দ্বারা কাজকর্ম্ম সমাধা হইতেছে। কেবল যে বস্ত্রাভাব দেখা দিয়াছে তাহা নহে, অনুবস্ত্র হইতে আরম্ভ করিয়া তৈল, কেরোসিন, লবণ, মসলা, চিনি, কুইনাইন ও অন্য ঔষধাদি এবং জীবনধারণের পক্ষে প্রয়োজনীয় প্রত্যেকটি জিনিষই দুর্ম্মূল্য ও দুষ্প্রাপ্য হইয়া পড়িয়াছে। আজ সেই দিকেই দেশবাসীর দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি। যুদ্ধের সূচনাতেই ইংলণ্ড এবং ইউরোপের অন্যান্য দেশগুলিতে অনুবস্ত্র হইতে আরম্ভ করিয়া বিলাসদ্রব্য পর্য্যন্ত--জীবনধারণোপযোগী প্রত্যেক জিনিষের এরূপ ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছে যে এই মহাসমরেও তাহাদের কোন অভাব হইতেছে না এবং অত্যধিক মূল্য বৃদ্ধিও হয় নাই। দৃষ্টান্তস্বরূপ ইংলণ্ডের কথা ধরা যাইতে পারে। সে দেশে ৪ মাসের মত ফসল জন্মায়, বাকী ৮ মাসের উপযোগী দ্রব্য বিদেশ হইতে আমদানী করিতে হয়। কিন্তু স্বাধীন দেশ বলিয়া এই মহাসমরের সময়েও সেখানে একটি কুকুর পর্য্যন্ত না খাইয়া মরে নাই, এবং বস্ত্রেরও কোন অভাব ঘটিতেছে না। আর পরাধীন দেশ বলিয়া এদেশে ৩০ লক্ষ লোক না খাইয়া মারা গিয়াছে এবং লক্ষ লক্ষ লোক ন্যাংটা থাকিবার উপক্রম হইয়াছে। দায়িত্বহীন মন্ত্রীর দল এ বিষয়ে চিন্তা করিতেছে না, এবং তাহাদের সমর্থক বেঞ্চর মহোদয়গণ স্বার্থের খাতিরে চোখ বুজিয়া সমর্থন করিয়া যাইতেছেন, এবং দেশের মা বোনকে উলঙ্গ দেখিয়াও লজ্জা বোধ করিতেছেন না--ইহাই হইল আশ্চর্য্যের বিষয়। বাংলার এই কর্ত্তাভজা মন্ত্রিসভা অন্যান্য ব্যাপারে যেমন কর্ত্তাদের মুখ রক্ষা করিতে যাইয়া দেশের দুঃখভার বাড়াইয়া দিয়াছেন, বস্ত্র সম্বন্ধেও তাঁহারা তাই করিতেছেন। ভারতবর্ষের মিলে ও তাঁতে যে কাপড় তৈয়ারী হয় তাহাতে ৪০ কোটি লোকের সঙ্কুলান হয় না; তজ্জন্য বিদেশ হইতে কাপড় আমদানী করিতে হয়। যুদ্ধের দরুণ বিদেশ হইতে কাপড় আমদানী বন্ধ হইয়া গিয়াছে; তদুপরি ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্ট এই কাপড়ের এক মোটা অংশ সৈন্যদের জন্য রাখিয়া দিয়াছেন; বাদ বাকী প্রত্যেক প্রদেশের জন্য একটি "কোটা" ঠিক করিয়া দিয়াছেন, তাহাতে বাংলার ভাগে মাথাপিছু মাত্র ১০ গজ কাপড় পড়িয়াছে, অথচ পাঞ্জাবে পড়িয়াছে ১৮ গজ করিয়া যদিও সেখানে বাংলার মত লীগ মন্ত্রীসভা নাই। যদি ঐ সময় এই তলিপবাহক মন্ত্রীর দল একটু জোর দেখাইয়া বাংলা দেশ যুদ্ধক্ষেত্র বলিয়া প্রতিবাদ করিয়া দণ্ডায়মান হইতেন, তাহা হইলে ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্ট বাধ্য হইয়া অধিক কাপড়ের ব্যবস্থা করিতে বাধ্য হইতেন। কিন্তু নিজেদের দুর্ব্বলতা বা অনুপযুক্ততা বিধায় তাহা করিতে সক্ষম হন নাই এবং সেই কারণেই আজ লোক উলঙ্গ থাকার মত হইয়াছে। তবুও তাঁহারা এখনও নির্লজ্জভাবে মন্ত্রীর গদি আঁকড়াইয়া বসিয়া রহিয়াছেন। বাজারে জোর গুজব যে কলিকাতার ব্যবসায়ীর গুদামে অনেক কাপড়ের গাঁট পারমিটের অভাবে মফঃস্বলে চালান হইতে পারিতেছে না। যদি এই গুজব সত্য হয় তবে তাহার মূলে দুইটি কারণ থাকিতে পারে--(১) গভর্ণমেণ্টের অন্য দেশে কাপড় চালান দেওয়া (২) দলগত স্বার্থসিদ্ধি। বস্ত্র সম্বন্ধে যে ব্যাপার চলিতেছে, সুতার সম্বন্ধেও তাই। সুতার অভাবে লক্ষ লক্ষ তাঁতি বেকার হইয়া বসিয়া রহিয়াছে। যতদিন এই মন্ত্রিসভার অস্তিত্ব বজায় থাকিবে ততদিন কোন অভাবই মিটিবে না। বাংলার জনসাধারণের সাবধান হওয়া উচিত যেন তাঁহারা দলগত রাজনীতিতে পড়িয়া সোনার বাংলাকে উৎসন্ন না দেন।

ডেপুটী স্পীকার মহোদয়! মন্ত্রিসভার কার্য্য হইতেছে দেশ শাসন করা, কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় বাংলা দেশের মন্ত্রিসভার কাজ হইতেছে কণ্ট্রাক্টরী, দোকানদারী, ঘুষখোরী, চোরাবাজারী। দেশ ও ধর্ম্মকর্ম্মের প্রতি তাঁহাদের উদাসীনতার প্রমাণ এই যে, আজ দুই বৎসর এসলামিয়া মাদ্রাসার জন্য কোন টাকা তাঁহারা বরাদ্দ করেন নাই; কারণ তাহারা হইলেন লীগ-মার্কা মন্ত্রিসভা। মেয়েছেলেদের ন্যাশনাল গার্ড করা প্রভৃতি কলঙ্কর কার্য্য জাহির করা হইতেছে লীগের মূল কাজ। দেশে ধর্ম্মশিক্ষার বিস্তার হইলে এইসব অপকর্ম্ম করা তাঁহাদের পক্ষে দুষ্কর হইবে। সেইজন্য কেরাউনের ন্যায় ধর্ম্মশিক্ষাকে দেশ হইতে বিতাড়িত করিবার জন্য তাঁহারা এই নীতি অবলম্বন করিয়াছেন। মাননীয় ডেপুটী স্পীকার মহোদয়! আমি আপনার যোগে এই লীগ-মার্কা মন্ত্রিসভাকে জানাইতেছি যে, কাবুলের আমীর আমানউল্লাহ বেপর্দা-নীতি অবলম্বন করায় আলেম সমাজ কর্ত্তৃক সিংহাসনচ্যুত হইয়া জন্মভূমি পরিত্যাগ করিতে বাধ্য হইয়াছিলেন। তুরস্কের ঐ নীতি অবলম্বন করার ফলে প্রত্যেক বৎসর ভূমিকম্প দ্বারা ধ্বংসলীলা চলিতেছে। বাংলা দেশেও এই অধর্ম্ম ও দুর্নীতি অবলম্বনকারী মন্ত্রিসভার গঠন অবধি দেশে অমঙ্গল দেখা দিয়াছে এবং দেশবাসী তাহাদের শাসননীতিতে জর্জ্জরিত ও উৎপীড়িত হইয়া উঠিয়াছে। তাহারা এদেশে খোদার অভিশাপ স্বরূপ হইয়া দাঁড়াইয়াছে।

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the discussion has been short and sweet in spite of a few indictments. I shall make some attempt to meet the reproaches and charges.

My honourable friend Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal referred to the repair of 8, Theatre Road, which is Government property and used to be placed at the disposal of the Commissioner of the Presidency Division of the time

being. It is a very old house and it needed extensive repairs. It is now decided that the Chief Minister of the time being should occupy that house on the same terms as the Commissioner of the Presidency Division did, namely, at a rental. (Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: That is surreptitiously increasing the salary of the Chief Minister.) How? He will pay rental.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: But he will enjoy the house. He may go to any other house he likes.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: But this is Government property. You provide Subdivisional Officers, District Magistrates and Commissioners of Divisions with houses of course on payment of rent. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: They are executives.)

As regards repair of 31, Theatre Road, I just now forget for what purpose it was requisitioned. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: The principle of ex-officio can never be extended to the case of Ministers.) Sir, as regards 31, Theatre Road, I forget just now for what purpose it was requisitioned, but as long as it is in requisition by Government for their use, it will have to be adopted to the purpose for which it has been requisitioned. As I have said, Sir, I forget just now for what purpose it has been requisitioned. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: For the purpose of extorting money from the public exchequer.) Not at all. (Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Worse than extortion.)

As regards houses for Ministers, I forget what was done in Madras. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: If you forget don't quote.) But I am certain about the United Provinces. There in 1937 the Ministers were provided with houses and there were a certain number of cars which were pooled by the Ministers. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Those were rented houses and Government cars placed at the disposal of Ministers.) Sir, 8, Theatre Road, will be placed at the disposal of the Chief Minister for the time being and he has to pay rent just as the Commissioner of the Presidency Division pays rent. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: That does not justify capital expenditure.) (Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: I propose that every Minister should get a house.) That would not be a bad idea. For the moment I am satisfied with my humble lodging.

As regards the Publicity Department mentioned by my honourable friend Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal, I find that almost every Government indulges in publicity. Well, Sir, I have no great liking for publicity myself. I prefer to keep out of publicity and publications but, at the same time, it is a very necessary thing. I find that even Indian States spend a lot of money on publicity.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: On a point of interruption, Sir. The Hon'ble Mr. Goswami looks much more beautiful in the *Bengal Weekly* than here. (Laughter.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You cannot say that in this House.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, Mr. Sanyal has touched a sore point in my heart. The picture in the *Bengal Weekly* is probably a reproduction of some snapshot of me taken somewhere in the sun, which makes me out far uglier than even I really am.

As I was saying, Sir, even the Indian States spend a lot of money on publicity and as regards the Government of the United States of America I got numerous expensive publications free of charge. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: But our non-official press is very efficient and Government can use it.) No, Sir, Government has got to publicise their views. That is a matter of policy. If there is a difference of opinion on this point between the Opposition and ourselves, I cannot help it.

As regards hospitals taken over by Government, I am sorry to hear that they compare unfavourably with the Government F.R.E. (Famine Relief Emergency) organisations. The Famine Relief Emergency hospitals were equipped during the famine and soon after. Great care was taken, and I sincerely hope that the hospitals temporarily taken over by Government with a view to improving them will be substantially improved. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is that an assurance or a pious hope?)

My honourable friend, Mr. Dhirendra Nath Datta, referred to Post-War Reconstruction Committees and said that many of the sub-committees were not functioning. That certainly is not exactly the position. Some of the sub-committees have done excellent work. As I said in my Budget speech, it is true that the blue prints are not yet ready, but it is expected that their reports will be ready before the end of April.

There were very few other points raised in the discussion.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: What about release of political prisoners?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: As regards release of political prisoners, I feel very strongly. It is a pity that larger number of political prisoners have not been released. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Only pity and nothing more!) I do however feel that the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department is anxious to release as many prisoners as he can do safely. On that point it is most difficult for me to express any opinion on behalf of Government. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Why? Are you not a part of Government?) Honourable members know my feeling in this matter and I hope honourable members will realise my difficulty.

I feel, Sir, that I have answered the main points raised.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: ডেপুটী স্পীকার মহোদয়! আমি আপনার মারফৎ অর্থসচিব মহাশয়কে জিজ্ঞাসা করিতে চাই—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: উত্তর দিবার সময় আপনি কিছুই জিজ্ঞাসা করতে পারেন না।

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED: উত্তর দিবার সময় জিজ্ঞাসা করা দরকার। আমি যদি জানবার জিনিষ জানতে না পারি——

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not the practice. Please take your seat.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: I have answered all the points raised and I now resume my seat.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 6-23 p.m. till 4-45 p.m. on Friday, the 2nd March, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 2nd March, 1945, at 4-45 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Deputy Speaker (Mr. SYED JALALUDDIN HASHEMY) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 167 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

(Supplementaries on Starred Question No. 109 contd.)

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: With reference to answer (*a*)(*iv*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what departmental action was taken against the officer concerned?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The officer concerned was severely censured by the Deputy Commissioner of the South district.

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: In view of the fact that the officer concerned submitted a false report, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why more stringent measures were not taken against him?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The punishment meted out to the officer was considered sufficient.

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the name of the officer concerned?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I would ask for notice.

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: With reference to answer (*d*)(*iv*) in view of the fact that all the persons prosecuted and acquitted one after the other held important positions in public life, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason why Government did not take any action at all against the officer?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: Is it a fact that Government approved of these mean tactics?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir.

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is not a fact that the prosecutions were lodged in respect of meetings held to protest against the Secondary Education Bill?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Presumably so. I am not very sure.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government consulted any legal opinion as to whether the officer in question may not be prosecuted for giving false information?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The officer in his explanation stated that when he called at the residence of Mr. Roy Chaudhury he found him not at home. That is why he applied for the issue of a warrant. Certainly the officer acted in a wooden-headed manner. That is why departmental action was taken.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: What was the rank of the officer concerned?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Sj. Roy Chaudhury was attending the Law court every day when the summons was issued against him?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice. I am not aware whether he was attending law courts or not.

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: Is it a fact that the prosecution was lodged under the orders of the Commissioner of Police at the instance of the Deputy Commissioner, South district?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Babu ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the case against the late Manindra Nath Mitter, the Judge held that the late Mr. Mitter was neither the convener, nor the president nor the speaker in the meeting about which prosecution was lodged against him?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know what was the judgment of the court. I ask for notice.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: In view of the information supplied, do the Government think it desirable that stringent measures should be taken against an officer who prosecuted people on false grounds?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It has been stated previously in reply to a similar question that the prosecution was lodged erroneously and for having caused inconvenience by the issue of a warrant Government has taken action against the officer concerned.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether it is a fact that prosecution was first initiated for infringing lighting orders and also for holding meetings and thereafter that portion of the complaint namely, "for holding meetings" was withdrawn?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes Sir.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the carelessness shown by the prosecuting officer who knowing full well that there was no prohibition against holding meetings yet started the prosecution, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to take severe steps against the said officer?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. The question of taking severe steps against the prosecuting officer does not arise because it was purely a mistake and so far as the ban is concerned there used to exist a ban against holding meetings. So it was purely an error of judgment.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the officer in question was in the meantime promoted?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know anything about that.

Distribution of gun licence in certain subdivisions of Bakarganj.

*110. **Mr. UPENDRA NATH EDBAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state separately—

(*i*) the number of gun licences (S.B.B.L. and D.B.B.L.) granted to—

(1) Pirojpur,
(2) Patuakhali,
(3) Bhola, and
(4) Sadar subdivision,

of Bakarganj district during the year 1944; and

(*ii*) number of them that are granted to—

(*A*) Caste Hindus,
(*B*) Scheduled Castes, and
(*C*) Muslims in each subdivision?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of those that have got the gun licences in each subdivision in 1944?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): Two statements are laid on the Table?

STATEMENT I.

Referred to in reply to starred question No. 110 showing the number of gun licences granted in subdivisions in the district of Bakarganj during the year 1944.

District.	Subdivisions.	No. of gun licences (S. B. B. L. and D. B. B. L.) granted.				No. of licences granted to different castes.				
		S.B.M.L.	S.B.B.L.	D.B.B.L.	Total.	Caste Hindus.	Scheduled Castes.	Muslims.	Mugs.	Indian. Christians.
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)
Bakarganj ..	Pirojpur ..	1	8	59	68	7	6	55	..	..
	Patuakhali ..	..	7	13	20	1	..	18	1	..
	Bhola ..	..	2	3	5	..	..	5	..	..
	Sadar ..	..	12	40	52	26	3	22	..	1
	Total ..	1	29	115	145	34	9	100	1	1

STATEMENT II.

Referred to in reply to starred question No. 110 showing the names of persons who were granted gun licences in the subdivisions in the district of Bakarganj during the year 1944.

PIROJPUR SUBDIVISION.

(1) Abdul Kader Mia.
(2) Sah Abu Jaffar Md. Saleh.
(3) Fazlul Karim Talukder.
(4) Benoy Bhuson Dey.
(5) Md. Modasser Ali Talukder.
(6) Abdul Manan Talukder.
(7) Adam Ali Shikder.
(8) Abdur Rashid Shikder.
(9) Kazi Abdul Hamid.
(10) Bipin Behari Chakravorty.
(11) Maulvi Serajul Haq.
(12) Abdul Latif Talukder.
(13) Debendra Nath Baral.
(14) Dr. Golam Hossain.
(15) Moklesuddin Mian.
(16) Md. Abdul Hashem.
(17) Maminuddin Chowkider.
(18) Nibaran Chandra Karanjai.
(19) Md. Azaharuddin Ahamed.
(20) Maulvi Nurmahammad Shikder.
(21) Maulvi Mahatabuddin Ahamed.
(22) Maulvi Mir Anwar Ali.
(23) Maulvi Akramali Khalifa.
(24) Maulvi Maminuddin Mridha.
(25) Md. Belyat Hossain.
(26) Maulvi Mahammad Sader.
(27) Md. Abdul Gafur Shikder.
(28) Maulvi Nuruddin Ahamed.
(29) Maulvi Md. Molfat Ali.
(30) Maulvi Md. Nawabali Mia.
(31) Maulvi A. B. Md. Nural Islam.
(32) Akhil Chandra Majumder.
(33) Md. Maminuddin Jamadder.
(34) Mahammad Ali Howlader.
(35) Mahammad Bazlar Rahaman.
(36) Maulvi Abdul Hamid Muktear.
(37) Maulvi Abdul Gaffur Muktear.
(38) Syed Mahammad Israil.
(39) Maulvi Sahabuddin Ahamed.
(40) Tarini Charan Mistri.
(41) Rakhal Ranjan Gharami.
(42) Md. Bahar Ali Howlader.
(43) Maulvi Azizar Rahaman Mia.
(44) Maulvi Abdus Samad Mia.
(45) Hazi Safijuddin Talukder.
(46) Lalit Kumar Mondal.
(47) Makham Lal Bose.
(48) Md. Abdul Hashem Khan.
(49) Sarat Kumar Halder.
(50) Maulvi Altabuddin Ahamed.
(51) Abdul Majid Talukder.
(52) Abdul Awal Shikder.
(53) Maulvi Afseruddin Ahamed.
(54) Rajendra Nath Halder.
(55) Md. Ohajuddin Sardar.
(56) Maulvi A. K. M. Ashrafuzzama.
(57) Maulvi Md. Ismail.
(58) Md. Kalu Howlader.
(59) Md. Rashid Mia.
(60) Maulvi Makbul Ahamed Rari.
(61) Sekendar Ali Howlader.
(62) Mafijuddin Mollah.
(63) Maulvi Fazlul Karim Mia.
(64) Maulvi Golam Rasul Khan.
(65) Maulvi Serajul Haque.
(66) Md. Hashem Ali Howlader.
(67) Khitish Chandra Chakravorty.
(68) Dhirendra Nath Mitra.

BHOLA SUBDIVISION.

(1) A. F. M. Chowdhury.
(2) A. N. M. Nazirul Haque.
(3) Maulvi A. M. Atikullah Chowdhury.
(4) Maulvi Rafiul Haque.
(5) Md. Khorshed Alam Chowdhury.

PATUAKHALI SUBDIVISION.

(1) Motaharuddin Ahamed.
(2) Maulvi Abdul Rashid.
(3) Abu Syed Md. Julfikar.
(4) Hafijuddin Talukder.
(5) Panchoo Mug Matbar.
(6) Abual Kashem Howlader.
(7) Syed Apter Ali.
(8) Maulvi Abdul Kader.
(9) Maulvi Md. Idris.
(10) Md. Ismail Talukder.
(11) Md. Zahirul Ismal.
(12) Azahar Ali Howlader.
(13) Md. Wares Ali Mia.
(14) Md. Sahajan Howlader.
(15) Abdul Majid Howlader.
(16) Hazarat Ali Mia.
(17) Alimaddi Dafader.
(18) Maulvi Abdul Kabir Mia.
(19) Rabati Mohon Pal.
(20) Mir Atahar Ali.

SADAR SUBDIVISION.

(1) Chintaharan Roy.
(2) Sisir Kumar Guha.
(3) A. K. Md. Samsuddin Chowdhury.
(4) Zakaria Md. Noor.
(5) Fazlul Karim.
(6) Himanshu Kr. Roy Chowdhury.
(7) Maulvi Akteruddin Ahamed.
(8) Maulvi Md. Badsha Mia.
(9) Subedar Mehendi Khan.
(10) Mr. W. K. Randall.
(11) Rajendra Lal Sen.
(12) Upendra Lal Pal.
(13) Priyanath Rai Chowdhury.
(14) Asmat Ali Khan.
(15) Dhirendra Nath Chatterji.
(16) Indra Lal Shikder.
(17) Hari Mohon Ganguly.
(18) Naresh Chandra Biswas.
(19) Biren Malakar.
(20) Nirode Behari Talukder.
(21) Maulvi Abdul Majid Mia.
(22) Maulvi Md. Abdul Rasul Khan.
(23) Sitanath Pal.
(24) Azahar Ali Mia.
(25) Maulvi Abdul Rashid Talukder.
(26) Maulvi Abdul Aziz Khan.
(27) Maulvi Md. Ishaque Ali.
(28) Sarat Chandra Samadder.
(29) Md. Munsur Chowdhury.
(30) Maulvi Mahammad Ali Talukder.
(31) Maulvi Daliluddin Ahamed.
(32) Manmotho Nath Guha.
(33) Parimal Chandra Guha.
(34) Sailendra Nath Ghose.
(35) Makham Lal Das.
(36) Sudhir Chandra Das.
(37) Sudhir Kr. Sen Mahalanabis.
(38) Maulvi Abdul Kasem Howlader.
(39) Abdul Somad Talukder.
(40) Khitish Chandra Sen.
(41) Birendra Mohon Das Gupta.
(42) Kartick Chandra Bose.
(43) Maulvi Nesaruddin Ahamed.
(44) Chinta Haran Ghose.
(45) Abdul Waheb Talukder.
(46) Jonardan Sen Gupta.
(47) Maulvi Mafijuddin Biswas.
(48) Narendra Lal Pal Chowdhury.
(49) Md. Emdad Hossain.
(50) Maulvi Azizuddin Ahamed.
(51) Bhupesh Chandra Pal.
(52) Rebati Mohon Pal.

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of applicants who are Caste Hindus, Scheduled Castes and Muslims respectively for gun licences?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is given in the answer.

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: No, it is not there. I want the number of applicants.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Are the Government aware that though the number of applicants from the Caste Hindus and Scheduled Castes was large yet their applications were turned down and only a few were granted gun licences?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of the number of applicants for the issue of gun licenses. It is not possible for me to answer that question. I will have to ask for notice.

SJ. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to look into the matter and see that justice is done to the Scheduled Castes and caste Hindus in the matter of granting licences in Barisal district?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Licences are not granted on any communal proportion or basis.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the total number of gun licences granted to Muslims, namely, 100 as against the number 34 to caste Hindus and 9 to Scheduled Castes has been in pursuance of any policy of the Government of Bengal to equip the Muslims with fire-arms?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir.

Officers of A. R. P. organisation in Mymensingh.

*111. **Mr. ABUL HOSSAIN AHMED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Defence) Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing the present number of officers of A.R.P. organisation at Mymensingh and also showing the number of Muslim and Hindu officers in each rank?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Muslims predominate in the district of Mymensingh?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any Muslim officer has ever been placed as Controlling Officer?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) A statement is placed on the Table.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The District Magistrate is the *ex-officio* Controlling Officer.

(*d*) Does not arise.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 111.

Name of service.	Muslim.	Hindu.
Wardens	..	1
Control and Report Centre ..	2	1
Rescue	..	1
Casualty	2	3
H. P. F. Parties	..	1
Depot	1	1
Barracks	1	1
Messenger Commandant	1	..
Total ..	7	9

Release of persons detained without trial under rule 26 of Defence of India Rules.

*112. **Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many persons detained without trial under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules have been released since the present Ministry assumed office;

(*b*) how many of the persons released have been restricted in their movements;

(*c*) whether the persons restricted have been granted any allowance; and

(*d*) if so, how many of them?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Five hundred and fifty-eight.

(*b*) Eighty-six.

(*c*) and (*d*) Yes; eleven of them.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many of the 86 persons whose movement has been restricted applied for allowances?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us for how long a period these eighty-six prisoners whose movement was restricted were in detention?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the maximum and minimum amounts of the allowance that was granted?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, it will take time to answer that question.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: In view of the fact that these 86 persons have been restricted after they had been detained in jail for a long period, will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of granting allowances to all of them?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, if this question is held over I will be able to answer these questions because I find that I have brought a wrong file with me.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In that case the question is held over.

Grant of family allowance to security prisoners.

***113. Mrs. HEMA PROVA MAJUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the following security prisoners applied several times for the maintenance allowance for their dependents and, if so, whether they have been granted any allowance and, if not, why not, viz.:—

(*i*) Sj. Kshemesh Ranjan Chatterjee, M.SC., B.L., Rajshahi Jail,
(*ii*) Sj. Pramatha Nath Banerjee, ex-M.L.C.—Dum Dum Jail,
(*iii*) Sj. Biswa Nath Mukherjee—Presidency Jail,
(*iv*) Sj. Niranjan Modak, Mukhtear—Alipore Central Jail,
(*v*) Sj. Manindra Sarkar—Rajshahi Jail,
(*vi*) Sj. Brahmodas Talukdar—Dum Dum Jail, and
(*vii*) Sj. Jogesh Chandra Chakravartti—Dacca or Midnapore Jail;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that all the above prisoners were earning when at large and contributing towards the maintenance of their families and dependents; and

(*c*) whether it is a fact that their families and dependents have been deprived of the help these prisoners were rendering out of their earning?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): Yes, several applications have been received from the security prisoners referred to and a family allowance has been sanctioned to Babu Niranjan Modak. The case of Babu Brahammodas Talukdar is under consideration. A statement showing the reasons for not granting any family allowance to the other five security prisoners is placed on the Library Table.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that Khemesh Ranjan Chatterjee was earning Rs. 45, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to grant him that amount as his allowance for his family?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The case of the security prisoner, Khemesh Ranjan Chatterjee, is being re-examined by Government.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In the statement placed on the Library table you have stated that one of his brothers is earning. May I ask whether the Government enquired as to whether the brother has a large family to maintain?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The brother is a doctor who is earning as such and then the family gets some rent from the Dinajpur house.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire how much does his brother earn and if he has any surplus to be given for the maintenance of his mother and grand-mother?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already stated that this case is being re-examined by Government.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the admission made in the statement placed on the Library table that Sj. Biswa Nath Mukherjee was earning a little as a priest, will the Government be pleased to state why he has been refused any allowance?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It was found that the family is self-supporting and besides the security prisoner is a bachelor. Whatever he earned as a priest he spent on himself and did not contribute to the maintenance of the family.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: He has to spend something for his personal expenses even when he is in jail and he has been writing to his father, who has no income and who is old, for money.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The information of Government is that the family is self-supporting.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Mr. Biswa Nath Mukherjee used to draw his personal expenses from the family. In view of that will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to grant him some money for his personal expense?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of the position as stated by Mr. Kundu and this question may be looked into.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Sj. Manindra Sarkar was earning by private tuition and helping his minor brothers towards the expenses of their studies?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The information of Government is that this security prisoner was a student when he was arrested and instead of helping the family he was rather dependent on the family.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what amount has been granted to Niranjan Modak who was a practising Muktear in Krishnagar?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sj. Niranjan Modak was first granted an allowance of Rs. 45 per month.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: When does the Hon'ble Minister think that a decision on the case of Sj. Brahmodas Talukdar will be taken?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot say, but the matter will be expedited.

Regarding the health of Sj. Santosh Ranjan Ganguli, a security prisoner.

*114. **Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that security prisoner Santosh Ranjan Ganguli of Rajshahi Central Jail has been suffering for the last two years from severe inflammation of the gums accompanied by more or less constant bleeding from the gums and also severe pyorrhoea;

(*ii*) that he has been in indifferent health during all this time and has been suffering from constant pain in the front of left chest and also occasionally on the left back;

(*iii*) that for the last four or five months he has been running a temperature in the evening, and that for the last one month and a half even temperature has been regularly above 99°F.; and

(*iv*) that the Superintendent and Medical Officer of the Jail has examined him on several times and in spite of all kinds of treatment including injections his condition is not improved and getting worse?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is considering the desirability of releasing him; or of transferring him to a jail in or near Calcutta, for his better treatment?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) Mr. Ganguly complained of pyorrhoea in March, 1943.

(*ii*) He complained of occasional pain in front of the left side of the chest in September, 1944.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) He is under proper treatment at Rajshahi Jail and his present condition is satisfactory.

(*b*) No.

Arrest of Mr. Mehta.

***115. Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Mr. Mehta was working on the Famine Enquiry Committee the object of which was to collect facts and figures and place them before the Woodhead Enquiry Commission;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Mehta had written a letter to Mrs. Kalyani Bhattacharjee at Bombay in July, 1944, which was intercepted by the police, and in which letter he had written to say that he was going to see Mahatma Gandhi at Panchgani in connection with the Bengal Famine;

(*c*) whether Mr. Mehta had booked a seat in the Bombay mail of 19th July, 1944, for Bombay, and was arrested on 17th July, 1944, before he could go to see Mahatma Gandhi;

(*d*) whether while interrogating Mr. Mehta, the Special Branch Inspector of Police told him that his arrest was due to his *pro*-Huque-Shyamaprosad attitude and also to the apprehension that he was about to bring out other publications on Bengal Famine; and

(*e*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Mehta was arrested on account of the facts mentioned in (*a*), (*b*) and (*d*)?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) I have no information to this effect. When he was interrogated in Calcutta he stated that he had come to Calcutta to take up the post of Special representative of the *Forum* of Bombay.

(*b*) I have no information.

(*c*) Mr. Mehta was arrested on the 17th July, 1944. At the time of his arrest a third class railway ticket from Calcutta to Bombay was found amongst his effects. Even if the ticket was for his own use the real purpose of his visit to Bombay was not known.

(*d*) and (*e*) No.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*b*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any record is kept of letters intercepted by the police?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to question (*b*) and reply therto, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he enquired about this matter after receivng this notice?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Mr. Mehta was interrogated as to the purpose of the ticket which was found to be in his possession?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any steps were taken to ascertain as to what was the purpose of the ticket?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already said that.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: No, Sir, he has not said that. My question is whether any steps were taken to ascertain the purpose of the ticket.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He was interrogated on that point and the explanation he gave was that he proposed to undertake a journey to Bombay.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Was Government satisfied that he was correct in his statement?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice as to whether the matter was pursued or not.

Externment of persons under Bengal Smuggling of Arms Act, 1934.

*116. **Mr. RADHA NATH DAS:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many persons have been externed from Bengal under the Bengal Smuggling of Arms Act, 1934, from 1934 to 1936; and

(*b*) in how many cases the order of externment has been withdrawn up to date?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): Nine persons have been externed from Bengal and the order of externment has not been withdrawn in any of the cases relating to those persons.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us the period of externment? Were they externed at the same time or at different periods?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether they are residents of Bengal?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Representation of Scheduled Caste members in Union Relief Committees, Tippera.

*117. **Rai Sahib JAGAT CHANDRA MONDAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(1) the total number of the existing District and Union Relief Committees formed in the district of Tippera;

(2) the total number of members in each Relief Committee;

(3) how many of them are (*A*) Muslims, (*B*) Caste Hindus, and (*C*) Scheduled Castes;

(4) the names of the Scheduled Caste members; and

(5) whether the Scheduled Castes have been adequately represented in those Committees?

(*b*) If not, what steps Government propose to take for adequate representation of the Scheduled Castes in those Committees?

MINISTER-in-charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjee): (*a*)(1) There is no District Relief Committee in the district. The number of Union Relief Committees is as follows:—

Subdivisions.				
Brahmanbaria	...	...	...	68
Laksam	...	...	...	68
Chandina	...	...	...	52
Chandpur	...	...	...	53
			Total ...	241

(2) to (4) A statement furnishing the information is laid on the Library Table.

(5) Yes.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Distribution of English vegetable seeds at Astagram, Mymensingh.

*118. **Rai Sahib MONOMOHAN DAS:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how much winter English vegetable seeds have been distributed this year at Astagram in Mymensingh; and

(*ii*) how much of them were (I) for free distribution, and (II) for sale?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the District Agricultural Officer of the Eastern Circle, having his headquarters at Dacca, has been ordered by the Deputy Director of Agriculture to put up at Astagram until further order?

MINISTER-in-charge of the AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain): (*a*)(*i*) The following quantities of winter English vegetable seedlings have been distributed this year in Astagram:—

Cabbage—6,700 seedlings.

Cauliflower—11,400 seedlings.

Tomato—2,000 seedlings.

(*ii*) These were all distributed free in all the three places of Bhati area for popularising cultivation of these vegetables in this area.

(*b*) A Grow More Food District Agricultural Officer has been deputed to supervise the work of vegetable cultivation in the Bhati area with temporary headquarters at Bajitpur and not Astagram.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Primary scholarships in Jalpaiguri district.

36. Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing with respect to the district of Jalpaiguri—

(*a*) the number of primary schools;

(*b* the number of students reading in those schools in the years, (1) 1937-38 and (2) 1940-41;

(*c*) the number of students who appeared in the Primary Examination in the year 1940-41;

(*d*) the number of centres of the Primary Examination in the year 1940-41; and

(*e*) the number of scholarships meant for the boys in the years 1937-38 and 1940-41?

MINISTER-in-charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan):

(*a*) 1937-38	...	...	...	1,103
1940-41	...	...	...	851
(*b*) 1937-38	...	...	...	37,802
1940-41	...	...	...	42,943

(*c*) Seven hundred and forty-four.

(*d*) Four centres.

(*e*) The number of open scholarships on the results of the Primary (Maktab) Final Examination allocated to this district is only four including one reserved for Muslims. Besides these four District Scholarships, there are 16 Final Primary Scholarships reserved for backward and depressed classes of the whole of the Rajshahi Division which are awarded by the Divisional Inspector of Schools on a Divisional basis. In the year 1940-41 only one of these 16 scholarships was secured by this district against three such scholarships in the year 1937-38.

Medical treatment of certain security prisoners.

37. Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether the following security prisoners have been suffering for several months from the ailments noted against each:—

(*i*) Sj. Nikunja Behari Maiti, M.L.A.,—chronic dysentery and col stasis treated in Medical College Hospitals for several months and now in Presidency Jail;

(*ii*) Sj. Sushen Mukherjee—suffering from low blood pressure and gradually losing weight;

(*iii*) Sj. Chitta Guha—suffering from chronic rhinitis transferred to Presidency Jail from Dacca about 5 months back;

(*iv*) Sj. Bhupendra Kishore Rakshit Roy—chronic septic tonsillitis transferred from Rajshahi Jail to Presidency Jail;

(*v*) Sj. Anil Bhattacharyya—pain in abdomen, had to be treated 5 times in 8 months in Presidency Jail Hospital;

(*vi*) Sj. Sadhan Roy—septic tonsils transferred from Jalpaiguri to Presidency Jail;

(*vii*) Sj. Anadi Sen—suffering from blood pressure, wants to be treated by his family physicians;

(*viii*) Sj. Arun Roy—periodic pain in lower abdomen and weakness, weight only 103 lbs. (5 feet 7 inches height);

(*ix*) Sj. Adwaita Dutta—renal colic, gall bladder pain, hernia, evening rise of temperature, 5 out of 10 months in Presidency Jail Hospital, wants permission to be treated by outside specialists;

(*x*) Sj. Netai Jana—daily evening rise of temperature and loss of weight;

(*xi*) Sj. Jyotish Guha—chronic sciatica, liver troubles, pain down the legs, wants to be treated by his own specialists;

(*xii*) Sj. Karuna Mitter—septic tonsil, deafness, arthritis appendicitis (chronic), heart and lungs trouble, wants to be treated by his own specialists;

(*xiii*) Sj. Narayan Chandra Datta of Khulna sent to Medical College Hospitals from Dum Dum Jail—suffering from Asthma and was under oxygen treatment at all hours at least up to the end of June;

(*xiv*) Sj. Debesh Mukherjee sent to Medical College Hospitals from Alipore Jail—suffering from stones and chronic kidney troubles, wants to be operated by his family surgeon;

(*xv*) Sj. Priya Ranjan Sen—sent to Medical College Hospitals from Dum Dum—suffering from rheumatic fever for several months;

(*xvi*) Sj. Nagendra Sekhar Chakravarty—had posterior gastra, jeyumtomy operation for gastric ulcer and still gets fits of severe pain, now in Dum Dum Jail;

(*xvii*) Sj. Kedareswar Sen Gupta—stomach trouble, bed-ridden for years, weight at 78 lbs., now in Dum Dum Jail; and

(*xviii*) Sj. Deban Das—suspected T.B., now in Dum Dum Jail?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, do the Government propose to take steps for their proper treatment or to release them on medical grounds?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: The information asked for is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in war time. All cases of illness are being given proper treatment by specialists in jail or as indoor patient in the Medical College Hospital Group of Hospitals.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is no record kept about these security prisoners about whose health has been enquired?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, a record is kept.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister please explain why he has replied that the information asked for is not readily available and its collection would involve an amount of time and labour that would not be justifiable in war time?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Because this is not kept in a register at one place. These information and records are in various branches of the departments of Government and in various jails and hospitals. They will have to be collected from all the different places and many files will have to be looked into—I mean, files relating to the security prisoners.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the honourable member be pleased to state whether the answer that time and labour necessary for giving information regarding the health and medical treatment of the security prisoners are not justified in war time is in pursuance of the so-called and much advertised liberal policy of the Government?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not allow that question.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, may I point out that in season and out of season in answers he says "in pursuance of the liberal policy of the Government".

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I can't help it.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is not desirable that the Government, for the purpose of consoling the relations of these prisoners, should take this trouble and furnish us with the information which has been asked for?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government will be only too pleased to furnish this information but Government would like some co-operation from the gentlemen who put these questions. Instead of putting an omnibus question, if they could split up the question into 3 or 4 different parts and then submit them, it would be possible for Government to attend to them easily.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: How much time will be required in collecting the information?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: This is almost flippant, I must say.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That I can't help.

Grant of family allowance to, and release of, security prisoners detained in Bengal on 21st August, 1943.

38. Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT MAZUMDAR: (*a*) With reference to the answer given to starred question No. 51 on the 20th September, 1943, relating to security prisoners detained in Bengal on 21st August, 1943, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether any family allowances, at all, have been granted to any of the 2,516 security prisoners stated to have been detained on that date in the category which is excluded from the jail treatment and privileges prescribed by the Bengal Security Prisoners Rules, 1940?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, what are the reasons thereof?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many such prisoners have been granted a family allowance; and

(*ii*) what are the amounts granted to each such person, giving their names?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many security prisoners out of the 2,516 of this category, if any, have been released since the 21st August, 1943, up to the latest available date;

(*ii*) how many persons since the 21st August, 1943, have been made security prisoners of the aforesaid category; and

(*iii*) how many persons are at present waiting as prisoners under rule 129 of Defence of India Rules, or any other similar rule, with a view to their being made security prisoners of this category?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) of the 1,503 security prisoners of the other category, said to have been detained on the 21st August, 1943, who are treated in jail according to the Bengal Security Prisoners Rules, 1940, how many have since been released up to the latest available date;

(*ii*) how many persons have been made security prisoners of this category;

(*iii*) how many are being detained under rule 129, Defence of India Rules, or otherwise, at present, pending their confirmation as security prisoners of this category;

(*iv*) how many persons now detained in Bengal Jails as security prisoners have been granted by Government monthly family allowances; and

(*v*) how many of them are actually receiving payments?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be also pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the total number of persons now being detained in Bengal without trial—

(*A*) as security prisoners under Defence of India Rules of all categories, and

(*B*) as State prisoners under Regulation III of 1818; and

(*ii*) how many of the above number are females?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) No.

(*b*) These prisoners had no ostensible means of subsistence before arrest.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) (*i*) One hundred and twenty-three till 31st October, 1944.

(*ii*) Sixty-two till 31st October, 1944.

(*iii*) Seven on 31st October, 1944.

(*e*) (*i*) Three hundred and thirty-one till 20th December, 1944.

(*ii*) One hundred and thirty-six till 20th December, 1944.

(*iii*) Fifteen on 20th December, 1944.

(*iv*) and (*v*) Family allowance has so far been granted in the cases of about 750 security prisoners. I have no information that payment of allowance has been stopped or withheld in a case where allowance has been sanctioned.

(*f*) (*i*) (*A*) 3,599 on 28th December, 1944.

(*B*) Fifteen on 28th December, 1944.

(*ii*) Nineteen on 28th December, 1944.

Number of detenus detained and released.

39. Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the number of detenus still detained in the different detention camps and different jails in the Province of Bengal;

(*ii*) what was the number when this Ministry took office;

(*iii*) how many had been released since then;

(*iv*) how many of the detenus still detained receive allowance;

(*v*) what is the (*A*) maximum and (*B*) minimum amount of allowance;

(*vi*) what is the number of detenus below the age of eighteen still detained;

(*vii*) what is the number of detenus released in pursuance of Government policy that the detenus below the age of 18 would be released;

(*viii*) what is the number of examinee detenus in the different jails of Bengal;

(*ix*) whether the Government have made any provisions for the examination fees of those detenus;

(*x*) what is the number of persons whose movements have been restricted by the orders of the Government of Bengal;

(*xi*) how many restrictive orders have been passed; and

(*xii*) how many such orders have been withdrawn by this Ministry after it has taken office?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that many persons have been debarred from pursuing their ordinary calling by such restrictive orders?

(*c*) Do the Government consider the desirability of giving allowance to the persons referred to in (*b*)?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) (*i*) Security prisoners—1,322.

State prisoners—15.

Criminal security prisoners—2,280.

(*ii*) Security prisoners—1,575.

Criminal security prisoners—2,500.

(*iii*) Five hundred and fifty-eight (this does not include criminal security prisoners released).

(*iv*) Seven hundred and fifty (approximately).

(*v*) *A*—Rs.200 per mensem.

B—Rs.5 per mensem.

(*vi*) Three.

(*vii*) Ten.

(*viii*) I have no correct information neither is it readily available.

(*ix*) No.

(*x*) and (*xi*) So far 4,263 restrictive orders have been passed including those issued by local officers.

(*xii*) This figure is not readily available.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Government have already been giving personal allowance in suitable cases.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us the number of security prisoners still under detention? What is the present position?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: These figures were correct so far as the middle of January is concerned. If I am to give up-to-date figures I will have to ask for notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: In answer to questions (*ii*) and (*iii*) it has been stated that the number of security prisoners was 1,575 and the number of releases was 558, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us how the figure 558 was arrived at in view of answer (*i*)? The figure of releases would appear to be 253.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I will explain the position. When this file came up to me I came across the figure 552 as the number of releases. Then I made a note that in another file I came across the figure

558 as the number of releases. Probably that figure was more up to date. Then I said this should be checked up and if the number of releases is 558 it should be put down. I think 558 was the number of releases put down without any corresponding changes in the other figure. 558 was the most up to date figure at the time when I dealt with the file on the 2nd February, 1945.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: May I take it that the present figure has been arrived at because new arrests have been made?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have stated that 558 is correct up to 2nd February, 1945; the other figure is correct up to early part of January.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: With reference to answer (*vi*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us why these three prisoners who are below 18 were not released in view of the Government policy?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot answer that question off-hand.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for not releasing the three security prisoners below 18?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That was the question which was put to me by Mr. Dutta and I stated "I ask for notice. I cannot give the information off-hand."

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us how many prisoners have received Rs. 200 per mensem?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member be pleased to state if the net effect of the liberal policy pursued by the present Ministry is the new arrest of 305 security prisoners and release of 558 prisoners in the course of the period between April, 1943, and—as the honourable member says—middle of January, 1945? Is that the correct position?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Dr. Sanyal has got himself confused. The liberal policy referred to by him is with regard to the grant of family allowances.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Not for release?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am coming to that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am satisfied.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: So far as the question of release is concerned, that is a question of liberal and progressive policy of Government.

Petition of security prisoner Babu Sailesh Ranjan Bhattacharya.

40. Mr. KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that security prisoner Babu Sailesh Ranjan Bhattacharya of village Dhenkhali, district Faridpur, at present lodged in the Rajshahi Central Jail, applied for a suitable grant of family allowance;

(*ii*) that before his arrest he was earning a lot of money from his personal business in timber and fuel wood in Central Provinces where he was arrested; and that his whole earning was being spent for the maintenance of his family;

(*iii*) that his business has been totally ruined on account of his incarceration;

(*iv*) that while he was in Jail his uncle died prematurely leaving his wife and children completely dependent on his family; and

(*v*) that his family has now fallen into great distress for the loss of his income?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether his petition has been granted, and if not, the reason therefor?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) to (*v*) No.

(*b*) No family allowance has been sanctioned in this case. The security prisoner had just passed the Matriculation Examination when he was arrested, and thus had no time to secure any job or take to business. He is unmarried. His father and uncle who has died recently were not dependent on him. His father is earning and has landed properties.

Opening of Tanning Training centre in Tippera district.

41. Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Industries Department aware (*i*) that there is a large number of people belonging to the *muchi* community locally known as *rishis* in the district of Tippera specially in the subdivision of Brahmanbaria, and (*ii*) that *rishis* are landless and have got no means of livelihood except raw tanning and are very poor?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state (*i*) whether any steps have been taken by the Government to give them any training in tanning and shoe-making, etc., and (*ii*) if so, what steps have been taken in the matter?

(*c*) Do the Government consider the desirability of opening a training centre in different localities in the district of Tippera which are inhabited by the *rishis*?

MINISTER-in-charge of the INDUSTRIES DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Shahabuddin): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes, training both in tanning and shoe-making through the agency of the demonstration parties was arranged for in several places of the district, viz., at Bholachang, police-station Nabinagar, in 1937-38, at Chandpur in 1938-39, 1941-42 and 1944-45 and at Brahmanbaria in 1944.

(*c*) A scheme for the rehabilitation of the *rishis* of the Province which *inter alia* envisages the opening of permanent training centres for tanning and shoe and leather goods-making in different districts is now under the consideration of Government.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state for what period the demonstration parties were arranged in the areas concerned as contemplated in answer (*b*)?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: The demonstration parties worked in various places. For the exact period of time during which the parties worked in each place I want notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long the scheme is under the consideration of Government and when it is likely to be given effect to?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: The scheme is in a fairly advanced stage of preparation.

(At this state the House was adjourned for 15 minutes for prayer.)

(After adjournment.)

STARRED QUESTIONS

Allegations of corruption against Chairman, Rajagaon Debt Settlement Board, Tippera.

*119. **Mr. JONAB ALI MAJUMDAR:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Co-operative Credit and Rural Indebtedness Department aware that there are serious allegations of corruption and dishonesty against the present Chairman of No. 1 Rajagaon Debt Settlement Board, within the Hajiganj police-station in the district of Tippera?

(*b*) Is it a fact—

(*i*) that a large number of people of the Rajagaon Union recently made a complaint in a written petition against this Chairman to the Hon'ble Minister making allegations of corruption and dishonesty on 11th November, 1944, in a registered cover;

(*ii*) that similar petitions were made by the local public of the Rajagaon Union against this particular Chairman alleging corruption and dishonesty to the Subdivisional Officer, Chandpur, on 24th March, 1944; and

(*iii*) that the local member of the Legislative Assembly also made a suggestion to the Hon'ble Minister in 1942 to replace this Chairman by an honest man at the time of the reconstitution of this Board which was overdue?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, are Government considering the desirability of removing the said Chairman and reconstituting the Board with an honest man as Chairman immediately in the interest of the public?

Khan Bahadur A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal): (*a*) Yes, but the allegations made in 1942 were found baseless on enquiry and the allegations made recently are under enquiry.

(*b*) (*i*) Yes.

(*ii*) No.

(*iii*) Yes, but the Chairman's dishonesty was not established on enquiry.

(*c*) The question of removal will be considered if the allegations are found true.

Lease of Khasmahal char land in Bakarganj.

*120. **Mr. UPENDRA NATH EDBAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state—

(1) the area of the Khasmahal *char* land in the district of Bakarganj that has been settled with during the year 1944; and

(2) the area of Khasmahal *char* land that has been leased to—

(*i*) Caste Hindus,

(*ii*) Scheduled Castes, and

(*iii*) Muslims,

in each case?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the names of those that have got the lease of Khasmahal *char* land?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjee): (*a*) (*i*) 19,147 acres.

(2) (*i*) 540 acres.

(*ii*) 623 acres.

(*iii*) 17,984 acres

(*b*) A statement showing the names is laid on the Library Table.

Wajed Ali Wakf Estate of Karatia, Mymensingh.

*121. **Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education (Registration and Wakf Board) Department aware—

(*i*) that the main property of the Wajed Ali Wakf Estate of Karatia, in the district of Mymensingh, has been recently attached by the Collector of Mymensingh; and

(*ii*) that the Muapara part of the Wakf Estate with many other mauzas have been sold in auction?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the present state of affairs, liabilities, collections, etc., and how far the provisions of the wakf deed are given effect to in brief?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*)(*i*) The Education Minister's information is that Tauzi No. 10 of the Mymensingh Collectorate appertaining to the Karatia Wajed Ali Khan Panni Wakf Estate has been attached under section 99 of the Cess Act by the Collector of Mymensingh.

(*ii*) Some properties have been sold on account of gross mismanagement during the incumbency of the late Mutawalli Al-Hadj Maulvi Masud Ali Khan Panni.

(*b*) The new Mutawalli who is the son of the late Mutawalli has not been able to improve the affairs of the estate. Collection does not seem to be looking up and the estate is still groaning under the weight of huge liabilities. The son has not submitted accounts to the Commissioner of Wakfs.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the amount of cess in arrears for which the property has been attached?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Of course it is heavy. As to the actual amount I want notice.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: With reference to answer (*a*)(*ii*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give a list of the properties that have been sold away?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: I want notice.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long the accounts have not been submitted?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Since the time when the new *mutawalli* took over charge.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long the previous *mutawalli* Maulvi Masud Ali Khan Panni did not submit his accounts?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Whether he did actually file any return or not it is not clear from the record. I want notice.

Maulvi MUHAMMED ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what step has been taken against the new *mutawalli* for not submitting the accounts of the Wakf Estate?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: A notice has been served on the new *mutawalli* to show cause why he did not file his accounts in time?

Maulvi MUHAMMED ISRAIL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the date on which the notice has been served on him?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: As to the actual date I want notice.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that for the last 8 or 9 years the accounts of this Wakf Estate have not been submitted?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: The new *mutawalli* took over charge only last year. He has not submitted any accounts and so he has been served with a notice to show cause why he should not be prosecuted.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the old *mutawalli* did not submit his accounts for the last 8 or 9 years?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: So far as the old *mutwalli* is concerned, I want notice to say whether he did submit any accounts or not.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that during the last 9 or 10 months over 1½ lakhs of rupees were collected, but nothing was paid to the cess account?

Khan Sahib Maulvi MAFIZUDDIN AHMED: Government is not aware of that.

Malaria and typhoid epidemics in the Beliaghata and Narikeldanga areas.

***122. Mr. HEM CHANDRA NASKER:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department aware—

(*i*) that a pernicious type of malaria and typhoid has broken out in the form of epidemic in the Beliaghata and Narikeldanga areas in the city of Calcutta;

(*ii*) that a heavy toll of lives of the inhabitants of the aforesaid areas is being every day taken by the said epidemic; and

(*iii*) that prescriptions for the patients suffering from malaria are not being served for want of adequate supply of quinine to the druggists appointed by Government?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*i*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps are being taken to check the said epidemic?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) (*i*) Malaria has prevailed in epidemic form in these areas but not typhoid.

(*ii*) The death rate has been heavy.

(*iii*) This is not a fact.

(*b*) A statement is laid on the Library Table

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the total quantity of quinine supplied to the druggists of the area?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I refer the honourable member to the statement laid on the library table. The quantity of quinine supplied to the shops in that area is clearly stated there.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how does the supply work out per head of the population?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: I ask for notice.

Allotments of quinine and quinine substitutes for the district of Faridpur.

*123. **Maulvi AHMED ALI MRIDHA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government (Medical) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) what allotments have been made of quinine, mepacrine, cinchona febrifuge, quinine ampoules, plasmoquine and others for the district of Faridpur in the current year;

(*b*) when the allotments have been made known to the Quinine Rationing Authority of the district;

(*c*) when the Quinine Rationing Authority was actually given the medicines;

(*d*) what arrangements have been made for distribution of the medicines amongst the public—

(*i*) by sale, and

(*ii*) by free supply;

(*e*) what quantities of the medicines have gone to the subdivision of Goalundo and when and to whom;

(*f*) what machinery has been set up for distribution in the said subdivision;

(*g*) when such machinery was set up for supply to—

(*i*) Union Board dispensaries,

(*ii*) class III(*b*) dispensaries, and

(*iii*) suffering villagers in unions;

(*h*) when distribution started actually;

(*i*) what supplies have gone to Union Board dispensaries up to 15th November, 1944, and what quantities, on what dates;

(*j*) what supplies have gone to the class III(*b*) dispensaries and by what dates such supplies were received by the dispensary authorities;

(*k*) what quantities have gone for free supply to suffering people in villages, and through what agencies and by what dates;

(*l*) what quantities have gone for sale to the villagers and through what agencies and by what dates;

(*m*) whether the District Board and the District Health Officer come in the picture for supplies;

(*n*) if so, to what extent; and

(*o*) if not, why not?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*b*) The allotments were made known to the Quinine Rationing Authority of the district on 17th July, 1944, 13th September, 1944, 31st October, 1944 and 23rd November, 1944, respectively, and Brahmachari's gift on the 31st August, 1944.

(*c*) The dates were—

1st Allotment in 2 supplies on 21st June, 1944, and 11th August, 1944.

2nd Allotment on 8th October, 1944, and Brahmachari's free gift.

3rd Allotment on 10th November, 1944.

4th Allotment on 8th December, 1944.

Prior to the 17th July, 1944, some portion of the proposed allotment of anti-malarial drugs was supplied to the district in anticipation of Government sanction on account of malaria condition then prevailing.

(*d*) (*i*) By sale—mainly through retail selling agents, charitable dispensaries, Government office staff, business firms, etc.

(*ii*) By free supply through charitable dispensaries, provincialised hospitals, F.R.E. hospitals, satellite centres, mobile units, non-official relief organisation and other free agencies set up by the 4 Subdivisional Officers and District Health Officer.

(*e*) A statement is laid on the Table.

(*f*) Same as stated in reply to clause (*d*).

(*g*) (*i*) Union Board dispensaries and (*ii*) class III(*b*) dispensaries (from 21st September, 1944, through Reserve Depot, Sadar).

These dispensaries were also getting supplies previously from thana headquarters through Assistant Relief Officers, Relief Co-ordinating Officers, etc., who would get their supplies from the Subdivisional Officer, Goalundo.

(*iii*) By sale through selling agents from the last week of September, 1944, and free distribution through agents set up by the Subdivisional Officer and District Health Officer from the last week of November, 1944.

(*h*) First week of September, 1944.

(*i*) 3 lbs. of quinine sulphate powder, 1½ lbs. quinine sulphate tablet, 3½ lbs. of cinchona febrifuge powder and 1 lb. of cinchona febrifuge tablet and 47,000 mepacrine tablets were supplied free through Sadar Reserve Depot on 21st September, 1944. They were also getting supplies previously from the sources mentioned against (*g*) (*i*) above.

(*j*) On 11th July, 1944, some quantities were placed in Sadar Reserve Depot for free distribution of which ¼ lb. of quinine sulphate powder, ¼ lb. of quinine sulphate tablet, 1 lb. of cinchona febrifuge powder, ½ lb. of cinchona febrifuge tablet and 60,000 mepacrine tablets were allotted to the class III(*b*) dispensaries. Actual dates of receipt by the different dispensaries are not known. They were also getting supplies previously from the sources mentioned against (*g*) (*ii*) above.

(*k*) 50,000 mepacrine tablets through free distributing agencies set up by the Subdivisional Officer, Goalundo, and some portions of the total quantities of 150,000 supplied to him through District Health Officer, in November, 1944. Besides, a non-official relief organisation at Rajbari has been supplied with 5,000 mepacrine tablets on 7th November, 1944.

The District Relief Co-ordinating Officer, Faridpur, has also been supplied with 80,000 mepacrine tablets on 7th December, 1944, and 11th December, 1944, for free distribution through non-official relief organisation in the district.

(*l*) 20 lbs. quinine sulphate powder, 20 lbs. quinine sulphate tablet, 64 boxes quinine ampoules and about 1 lac of mepacrine tablets have been allowed to be purchased by the selling agents from the latter part of September, 1944.

(*m*) Yes.

(*n*) The District Board purchased 33 lbs. of quinine sulphate powder, 16½ lbs. of quinine sulphate tablets, 99 boxes quinine ampoules and 33,000 mepacrine tablets on 25th October, 1944.

The District Health Officer was supplied free with 150,000 mepacrine tablets on 8th November, 1944, and 2nd December, 1944.

(*o*) Does not arise.

Statement referred to in reply to clause (a) of question No. 123.

	Quinine sulphate (powder).	Quinine sulphate (tablet).	Quinine ampoules.	Cinchona febri-fuge (powder).	Cinchona febri-fuge (tablet).	Mepacrine tablets.
	Lbs.	Lbs.	Boxes.	Lbs.	Lbs.	
1st allotment—						
Sale ..	650	340	2,200	..	..	800,000
Free ..	200	110	..	400	120	260,000
2nd allotment—						
Sale ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,000,000
Free ..	..	..	..	..	..	1,000,000
3rd allotment—						
Sale ..	..	..	..	..	..	2,500,000
Free ..	..	..	..	..	..	500,000
Brahmachari's free gift	5	..	..	..	..	28,000
4th allotment—						
Sale ..	200	100	..	..	..	..
Free ..	200	..	..	300	..	..

Statement referred to in reply to clause (e) of question No. 123.

The following quantities were supplied for the Goalundo subdivision:—

Quinine sulphate (powder).	Quinine sulphate (tablet).	Quinine ampoules.	Cinchona febrifuge (powder).	Cinchona febrifuge (tablets).	Mepacrine tablets.	
Lbs.	Lbs.	Boxes.	Lbs.	Lbs.	Lbs.	
300	..	..	100	..	..	On 1st March, 1944.
12	12	40	..	..	40,000	On 17th October, 1944.
..	..	..	..	..	50,000	On 18th November, 1944.

In addition, the selling agents for mepacrine, some for both mepacrine and quinine, charitable dispensaries, provincialised hospitals, F. R. E. hospitals, satellite centres, mobile units, non-official relief organisations, a few Government office staff and business firms of the subdivision have been supplied direct.

Alleged failure in discharge of duties by two members of Dacca District Board.

***124. Maulvi MD. ABDUS SHAHEED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to state whether two members of the Dacca District Board, i.e., Mr. Majibur Rahman and Mr. Shamsul Huda have joined the Government service?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many meetings of the Board were held since they joined the service;

(*ii*) how many of these meetings, each of them attended; and

(*iii*) whether the Hon'ble Minister is considering the desirability of asking them to resign the membership of the District Board?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) Government have no information.

Persons arrested under Defence of India Rules and released between certain periods.

*125. **Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing for the period from August, 1942, to April, 1943, and from May, 1943, to August, 1943—

(*i*) the number of arrests made under the Defence of India Acts and Rules; and

(*ii*) the number of them that have been released during the period?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the persons detained under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules have been held by the highest judicature in India to be illegal and *ultra vires*?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state under what legal authority the prisoners are being detained?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) A statement is placed on the Library Table.

(*b*) and (*c*) The honourable member perhaps means to suggest that the detention of persons under Defence of India Rule 26 has been held by the Federal Court to be illegal and *ultra vires*. That is not correct. The Federal Court in their judgment held that section 3 of Ordinance XIII of 1943 was sufficient to validate all orders passed by competent authority under Defence of India Rule 26. Moreover, under the terms of Ordinance III of 1944, since enacted, all previous orders under Defence of India Rule 26, have been validated and are now deemed to have been passed under that Ordinance. All security prisoners are now detained under orders made or continued in force under that Ordinance.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister please look into the statement placed on the Library table and say how, in view of the fact that the number of persons arrested were 1,948 and the number of persons released 470 between August, 1942, and April, 1943, and also in view of the fact that the number of persons arrested were 255 and the number of persons released 157 between May, 1943, and August, 1943, he claims that the Government are pursuing a liberal policy in the matter of arrests and releases of political prisoners?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The figures relate to a period, *i.e.*, from August, 1942, to April, 1943, when the previous Ministry was in office.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: The period between August, 1942, and April, 1943, was the period when the movement was in full swing and the then Ministry released 470 prisoners. But when there was practically no movement, the present Ministry arrested 255 persons and released 157 persons. Will the Hon'ble Minister now please say how he can claim that the Government follow a liberal policy in the matter of arrests and releases of political prisoners?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: If the honourable member will refer to the statement furnished in reply (*a*)(*i*), he will find that the number of arrests during the period when the present Ministry was in office was only 255 whereas the number of persons arrested during the regime of the last Ministry was almost 2,000. These figures speak for themselves.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: The present Ministry between May, 1943, and August, 1943, arrested 255 persons and released only 157 persons. How then do they claim that they are following a liberal policy?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I will explain it. The number of releases granted as compared with the total number of persons arrested (470 : 1948) came to about 25 per cent. during the time of the last Ministry whereas the number of releases granted as compared with the total number of persons arrested during the time of the present Ministry (157 : 255) came to about 60 per cent.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister please reply with reference to the period in question? The first period refers to a period when the movement was in full swing and the second period refers to a period when the movement has subsided.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have put the same question thrice already and it is no use pursuing it any further.

Health of Sj. Pannalal Mitra, a security prisoner.

*126. **Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(1) that Sj. Pannalal Mitra, a security prisoner in Presidency Jail has been suffering from—

(*i*) frequent stoppage of urine,

(*ii*) chronic dyspepsia,

(*iii*) acute constipation—bowels scarcely moving without purgative or douch,

(*iv*) pain in the spine,

(*v*) insomnia,

(*vi*) retraction of the ear,

(*vii*) loss of appetite,

(*viii*) giddiness of brain,

(*ix*) loss of weight from 93 lbs. to 83 lbs.

(*x*) tonsillitis and pharyngitis,

(*xi*) enlarge prostrate gland, and

(*xii*) slow fever;

(2) that he has been lying in Presidency Jail Hospital for the last 4 months without any improvement; and

(3) that the Medical Officer of Presidency Jail recommended—

(*i*) on 26th October, 1943, that he should be examined by a Surgeon Specialist,

(*ii*) on 6th December, 1943, that he was suffering from visceropsosis, and

(*iii*) on 26th December, 1943, that he was not making any improvement with any treatment in jail?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of—

(*i*) arranging his immediate and proper treatment in the Medical College; and

(*ii*) releasing him on parole so that he can make his own arrangements for his immediate treatment?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that security prisoners Sjs. (*i*) Adwaita Dutta, (*ii*) Nitai Jana, (*iii*) Brojen Das, (*iv*) Karuna Mitra, (*v*) Bhupen Rakshit, (*vi*) Parimal Ganguly, (*vii*) Arun Roy, (*viii*) Amulla Gosh, (*ix*) Nanilal

Chakravarty, (*x*) Sushen Mukherjee, (*xi*) Sibnath Banerjee, (*xii*) Bhabatosh Dutt, and many others have been recommended by the Medical Officer for treatment in Medical College and School of Tropical Medicine, either outdoor or indoor, but they are not getting treatment even after waiting for months;

(*ii*) that formerly outdoor treatment used to be done in the Medical College and School of Tropical Medicine on the recommendations of the Medical Officer alone and that the practice has been stopped by the order of the Inspector-General of Prisons about more than 6 months back;

(*iii*) that since then the treatment of security prisoners in Medical College and School of Tropical Medicine has practically stopped;

(*iv*) that Sj. Jotish Chandra Guha, a security prisoner, was sent on 21st December, 1943, by the Medical Officer of Presidency Jail to Medical College as an emergent case;

(*v*) that he was neither admitted nor examined by any one and sent back to Presidency Jail; and

(*vi*) that Sj. Bhupendra Kishore Rakshit and many others in the list were sent specifically from different jails in mufassil to Presidency Jail for treatment in Medical College and still they cannot get their treatment?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table a complete list of security and State prisoners who have been recommended for treatment in Medical College and School of Tropical Medicine by the Medical Officer in Presidency Jail in the last 6 months (July, 1943, to December, 1943), and the dates of such recommendations and what effect those recommendations had?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of reverting to the old system of sending security and State prisoners to Medical College and School of Tropical Medicine directly on the recommendations of the Medical Officer?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (1) (*i*) to (*vii*) My information is that he has all these complaints to a small extent.

(*viii*), (*xi*), (*xii*) and (*b*) (*ii*) No.

(*ix*) Yes; but his weight is stationary for the last one year.

(*x*) Only pharyngitis.

(2) Yes, he was.

(3) (*i*) Yes. This recommendation has already been carried into effect.

(*ii*) I have no information.

(*iii*) Yes. The prisoner is, however, maintaining the same weight for the last one year.

(*b*) (*i*) He has already been examined by the experts of the Medical College and also by visiting specialists and is being treated according to their prescriptions.

(*c*) (*i*) All the prisoners have since been examined by the specialists of the Medical College Hospitals and have been given treatment accordingly to their directions.

(*ii*) and (*iii*) Government have since made an arrangement whereby complicated cases of security and State prisoners can be examined within the jails by visiting specialists from the Medical College Hospitals. This arrangement has been made to obviate the necessity of sending prisoners to outside hospitals frequently. Even under the present arrangement urgent cases requiring hospital treatment are sent to the Medical College in anticipation of Government sanction.

(*iv*) and (*v*) The prisoner was examined by the Physician Specialist in the Medical College Hospitals who did not consider his admission thereto necessary as an emergent case.

(*vi*) The prisoner has already been sent to the E.N.T. Department of the Medical College Hospitals many times. He has been recommended indoor treatment and his case for admission is under consideration.

(*d*) A statement is placed on the Library Table.

(*e*) I refer the honourable member to my reply to (*c*) (*ii*) and (*iii*) of the question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer given just now that the prisoner is suffering from frequent stoppage of urine, chronic dyspepsia, acute constipation, bowels scarcely moving without purgative or douch, pains in the spine, insomnia, retraction of the ear, loss of appetite, etc., will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to reconsider and revise the decision already reached and release the prisoner immediately?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: He has received the best medical attention available and his present condition is satisfactory. He is now improving in health.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: In view of the fact that the security prisoner has been recommended for indoor treatment, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many days it will take for the Government to consider the matter and to arrange for his admission into the hospital?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government have issued order for the admission of this prisoner into the Medical College Hospital. As soon as a cabin is available he will be sent to the hospital.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: From the answer just now given, viz., that the condition of Sj. Pannalal Mitra is now satisfactory, do I understand the Hon'ble Minister to say that the ailments which the Government admit he has, have now left him and that he is free from them?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No. I don't say that all the symptoms have disappeared. Some of them appear sometimes but his general condition is now better. That is what I say.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Has he gained in weight?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: His weight is stationary.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Questions over.

Delay in delivery of letters addressed to members.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, may I invite your attention once more to the non-helpful attitude of your office in regard to letters posted and received by this office? I found laid on the table a letter addressed to me by a security prisoner from Dacca. It was lying on the table outside although postal tickets are affixed and stamped on it. I submit, let the office be directed to send all letters—

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, I hope you will see Mr. Speaker on this matter in his chamber or you can see me in my chamber.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, we did refer to him earlier on another occasion but this is still happening. I have three letters with me which have got postal stamps on them and which, if they were redirected, would have reached our hands in time.

Non-official Members' Resolutions.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAYA: মাননীয় ডেপুটী স্পীকার মহোদয়! ডাক্তার নলিনাক্ষ সান্যালের প্রস্তাব আমি সর্বান্তঃকরণে সমর্থন করি। আমি প্রথমেই এই কথা সোজাসুজি জিজ্ঞাসা করতে চাই যে নিরাপত্তা বন্দীদের এই যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট এখনও আটক কোরে রেখেছেন এ কার নিরাপত্তার জন্য? দেশের সমস্ত লোক কি আজ তাদের মুক্তি চায় না? এমন একজন লোকও কি তাঁরা দেখাতে পাবেন যে বলে যে এদের বন্দী রাখা হউক। তবে যাঁরা দেশের মন্ত্রিত্ব করেন, যাঁরা সরকার চালান, তাঁরা কোন অজুহাতে দেশের এই কর্মীদের বিনা বিচারে বন্দী করে কারার অন্তরালে দিনের পর দিন পচিয়ে মারছেন? একথার সোজাসুজি উত্তর চাই, ভাঁওতার দরকার নাই। হয় বলুন যে আমরা এদের মুক্তি চাই না, এদের বিরুদ্ধে এমন সমস্ত কথা জানি, তা যদি আমরা প্রকাশ করি তাহলে আমাদের চাকরী এখানে থাকবে না তাহলে আমি বলব যে তাঁরা যে প্রকাশ করছেন না তার কারণ তারা কিছুই জানেন না এদের বিরুদ্ধে। হয় বলুন আমরাও মুক্তি চাই, কিন্তু পারছি না, কেননা আমরা নোকরী করি, আর না হয় বলুন এদের মুক্তি চাই না। যাদের বিনা বিচারে আটকে রেখেছেন তাদের মুক্তি যদি না চান তাহলে আমি অনুরোধ করব অথবা এই দাবী করব যে অবিলম্বে এদের প্রকাশ্য আদালতে নিয়ে বিচার করা হউক যে কি তাদের বিরুদ্ধে অভিযোগ আছে। দেশ আজ আর্ত্তনাদ কোরে বলছে এরা দেশের আসল লোক, এরা দেশের শ্রেষ্ঠ লোক। আজ যখন বাংলার ৮৬ হাজার গ্রাম শ্মশানভূমিতে পরিণত হল ব্রিটিশ সাম্রাজ্যবাদের শোষণের ফলে তখন আমাদের জানা হয়ে গেছে কে আসল সরকার। আমরা আরও জানি এখানে যতই কাঁদি সে অরণ্যে রোদন মাত্র। আজকে সকলেই রুজি রোজগারের জন্য কাজ করেন; জগতে কোন বৃত্তি অবলম্বন করার অধিকার সকলেরই আছে এবং কোন বৃত্তি অবলম্বন কোরে কেউ অস্পৃশ্য হয় না, তবে সেটা সমাজসেবার বৃত্তি হওয়া চাই। মুচি, মেথর, মুর্দ্দফরাস--কে বলে তারা ছোট জাত? মা যদি শিশুর ময়লা পরিষ্কার কোরে ছোট জাত না হয়, তাহলে যে কোনরূপ সমাজসেবার কাজ করে সে ছোট জাত হয় না। কিন্তু অস্পৃশ্য সেই যে দেশদ্রোহী, কবি রবীন্দ্রনাথের ভাষায় বলি যে নিজের দেশের বিরুদ্ধে আচরণ কোরে জীবিকার্জ্জন করে, যারা দেশদ্রোহিতা কোরে জীবিকার্জ্জন করে তারা মাতৃরক্ত পান করে। আজকে যারা বিনা বিচারে বন্দী তারা কারা? আমাদের পুরোভাগে যাঁরা বসে থাকতেন--ডাক্তার সুরেশচন্দ্র বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়, নিকুঞ্জবিহারী মাইতি, খগেন্দ্রনাথ দাসগুপ্ত--আজকে মৃত্যুশয্যায় খগেন্দ্রনাথ, নীহারেন্দু দত্ত মজুমদার, প্রতুলচন্দ্র গাঙ্গুলী, আমাদের শ্রদ্ধেয় নেতা শ্রীশরৎচন্দ্র বসু যাঁকে মেদিনীপুর ও পার্ব্বত্য নীতিতে বন্দী কোরে রাখা হয়েছে—(A voice: সপুত্র) যাঁদের নাম নিয়ে এঁরা বড় বড় কথা বলেন, এমন কি সেদিনও বড় গলায় বলেছিলেন যে অন্ততঃ বাংলা দেশে শ্রীযুক্ত শরৎচন্দ্র বসুকে ফিরিয়ে আনতে হবে, সে বিষয়ে মুবন্দ কত তা খুব দেখা গেল। এখানে পরিষ্কার ভাষায় বলুন এ সম্বন্ধে কিছু করবার আছে কি না। এখানকার আজকের এক প্রশ্নের উত্তরে দেখছি এখনও ১,৩২২ জন বন্দী রয়েছে। এঁরা যখন মন্ত্রীর গদীতে বসেন ২ বৎসর পূর্ব্বে তখন ১,৫৭৫ জন ছিল, আর এখনও ১,৩২২ জন। যদি "নকরী কা ওয়াস্তে" এদের বন্দী রাখতে বাধ্য হন তাহলে তাঁরা অস্পৃশ্য সমাজে একদিন পরিগণিত হবেন। আজকে দেশে দেশে অনেক দেশদ্রোহীর বিচার হচ্ছে। একদিন এঁদেরও হবে।

কিছুদিন আগে হিটলার সাহেবের দম্ভে পৃথিবী ধ্বংস হবার উপক্রম হয়েছিল, এঁরা তখন ডানকার্ক কোরে পালিয়েছিলেন। ফ্যাসিজমকে আমরা নিন্দা করি, কিন্তু আজকে এই যে সাম্রাজ্যবাদ যা আমাদের ঘাড়ের উপর বসে রয়েছে এবং প্রত্যক্ষ ও মুখ্যভাবে আমাদের সর্ব্বনাশ সাধন করছে সেই সাম্রাজ্যবাদের Quisling কি তাঁরা নন যাঁরা আমাদের দেশের শ্রেষ্ঠ লোকদের বিনা বিচারে আটক কোরে রেখেছেন? কে এই সরকার চালাচ্ছেন? চার্চিচল আর এমেরীর বয়বলে কি আমাদের সরকার চলছে না? কতটুকু স্বাধীনতা এঁদের এখানে আছে? গভর্ণরই সব কিছু কোরে থাকেন; এখানে আবার majority, minorityর কথা। দেখা যায় majority থাকলেও মন্ত্রিত্ব থাকে না। আর মন্ত্রিত্ব--যে মন্ত্রিত্বই হউক না কেন, দৌড় কত দেখলাম। একটা ভুয়া শাসনতন্ত্র আমরা বাংলা দেশে পেয়েছি, কোন ক্ষমতা হাতে নাই। তার প্রমাণ দেশের লোকের অন্নের গ্রাস কেড়ে নেবার ফলে অর্দ্ধকোটি লোক অনাহারে পথের ভিখারী কোরে, বাড়ী থেকে তাড়িয়ে দেওয়া হ'ল, এবং রাস্তায় ঘুরে ঘুরে তারা জীবনপাত ক'রলে এবং বাংলার ৮৬ হাজার গ্রাম শ্মশানভূমিতে পরিণত হ'ল। দুর্নীতিতে চারিদিক ছেয়ে গেল, কোন উপায় নাই। যারা কিছু উপায় করিতে পারত, যারা শ্রেষ্ঠ লোক, যাদের দেশের লোক পরম মিত্র মনে করে তাদের কারাগারে পচিয়ে পচিয়ে মারতে হবে। ডাক্তার সুরেশচন্দ্র বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়কে যখন গ্রেপ্তার করা হয় তখন তিনি নড়িয়া গ্রামে শয্যাশায়ী। প্রায় ৫।৬ হাজার লোক হিন্দু ও মুসলমান তাকে পরিবেষ্টন কোরে আছে। তিনি সর্ব্বস্ব উৎসর্গ করেছেন পরের উপকারের জন্য; তাঁকে নিয়ে যেতে দেবে না; কিন্তু কি করবেন আমাদের সরকার? এদেশের লোক যা চায় তার বিরুদ্ধাচরণ করাই এখানকার সরকারের নীতি এবং এক্ষেত্রেও

তাই আচরিত হল। সঙ্গীনধারী মিলিটারী দিয়ে ডাক্তার সুরেশচন্দ্র বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায়কে কারাগারের ভিতর টেনে নেওয়া হ'ল। এইটাই হ'ল এই সরকারের নিয়ম যে এদেশের লোক যা চাইবে তার উল্টা আচরণ করতে হবে। এই পরাধীন দেশের যেটুকু স্বাধীনতা আছে, এর আকাশ, বাতাস, প্রান্তর, প্রকৃতির সহযোগে এবং আত্মীয়স্বজনের সঙ্গে মিলনের যেটুকু সান্ত্বনা আছে তা থেকে বঞ্চিত কোরে দেশের সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ যাঁরা তাঁদের বিনা বিচারে বন্দী করে তিলে তিলে পচিয়ে পচিয়ে মারতে হবে। কেন? তা না হ'লে যে নিরাপত্তা থাকবে না। কার নিরাপত্তা? চার্চিল-এমেরীর নিরাপত্তা? ভারতবর্ষকে শোষণে জর্জরিত কোরে ধ্বংস করবার যে চেষ্টা হচ্ছে সেই চেষ্টার নিরাপত্তা, না এঁদের নোকরীর নিরাপত্তা, না সত্যিকারের দেশের লোকের নিরাপত্তা থাকবে না? এখানে একটি ঘটনার কথা বলি--মনিলাল দত্ত ১০ বৎসর জেলখানায় ছিল। মুক্তির আগের দিন আমাদের মধ্যে নিয়ে আসা হ'ল--এই মন্ত্রীদের আমলে। কেন? না তাঁকে নিরাপত্তা বন্দী করা হয়েছে। মনিলাল দত্ত শৈশবে জেলখানার ঢোকে, দীর্ঘ ১০ বৎসর কারাবাসের পরে যেদিন বেরোবে সেদিন তাকে পুনরায় নিরাপত্তা বন্দী করা হ'ল। কোন আইনে? যে সব ভীরু কাপুরুষ Quislingরা এই সব কথায় তাদের কি কোন দিন বিচার হবে না? আজ Fascism নষ্ট হয়েছে, কাল সাম্রাজ্যবাদ নষ্ট হবে না একথা কে বলতে পারে? সেদিন এদের ফাঁসীতে লট্‌কাতে হবে না? একপ ত আজ হচ্ছে দেশে দেশে। সুতরাং নিজেদের স্বার্থের দিকে তাকিয়ে এ বিষয়ে নজর রাখা উচিত। মানবতার ক্রন্দন কি তাঁদের প্রাণে আঘাত করে না? সেই মনিলাল দত্ত যে কমিউনিষ্ট মতাবলম্বী, আর তারা নাকি এই যুদ্ধকে জনযুদ্ধ বলে, তাদের সম্বন্ধেও একই ভাব। সে বেচারী শৈশবে ঢুকে ১০ বৎসর পরে বাড়ীতে ফিরে যাবে এমন সময় সে হ'ল নিরাপত্তা বন্দী, জেলের বাহিরে যেতে পারেন না। আমার ভাষা নাই, বোঝাতে পারব না, এ ব্যথা কি যে জানে না তাকে বোঝাতে পারব না। দিনের পর দিন কারাপ্রাচীরের অন্তরালে থেকে মানুষের মনে বাহিরে যাবার কি স্বাভাবিক ব্যাকুলতা যে জেগে ওঠে সেটা যদি হৃদয় থাকে, মনুষ্যত্ব থাকে তবেই অনুভব করতে পারবেন। আমি সেইজন্য স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিনকে কয়েক দিন জেল-খানায় আত্মীয়স্বজন ছেড়ে বাস করতে বলব। তাহলে মনিলাল দত্তের ব্যথা ও বেদনার কথা বুঝতে পারবেন। সেই মনিলাল দত্তের বৃদ্ধ পিতা পুত্রের মুক্তিলাভের দিকে তাকিয়ে কোন রকমে জীবন ধারণ করেছিল। তারপরে প্রাণে আঘাত পেয়ে মৃত্যুশয্যায় শুয়েছিলেন। মনিলাল দত্ত কত আবেদন-নিবেদন করলে তার বৃদ্ধ পিতাকে কয়েক দিনের জন্য দেখতে যাবার জন্য--সশস্ত্র পুহরীর তত্ত্বাবধানে, তার আবেদন-নিবেদনে কিছুমাত্র ভ্রুক্ষেপ করা হ'ল না। কেন তাকে নিরাপত্তা বন্দী করা হ'ল? জেলখানায় ত সে ছিল, সে কার নিরাপত্তা ভঙ্গ করতে গিয়েছিল? এই ত ব্যাপার। তার পরে তার পিতা মারা গেলেন। শ্রাদ্ধের জন্যও তাকে বাড়ী যেতে দেওয়া হ'ল না। তার আবেদনের একটা উত্তরও দেওয়া হ'ল না; গোপনে, নীরবে সে অনেক অশ্রুপাত করেছে। আজ কোন অজুহাতে এই তথাকথিত সরকার এই সমস্ত দেশের শ্রেষ্ঠ সন্তানদের কারার অন্তরালে পচিয়ে পচিয়ে মারবেন? যাঁরা দেশের দুর্নীতির কারণ, যাঁরা দেশের সর্বনাশের কারণ আজকে জেলখানায় তাঁরা কেন থাকবেন না? কেন দেশের শ্রেষ্ঠ সন্তানগণ যাঁরা দেশের স্বাধীনতার জন্য সর্বস্ব ত্যাগ করেছেন তাঁরা জেলে থাকবেন? সুরেন্দ্রমোহন ঘোষের কথা বলি। তিনি বঙ্গীয় প্রাদেশিক কংগ্রেসের সভাপতি। জেলখানায় থাকাকালে দেখেছি তিনি শাস্ত্র-অধ্যয়ন এবং চরকায় সূতা কাটা ছাড়া আর কিছু করতেন না। তিনি individual civil disobedience কোরে জেলে গিয়েছিলেন। আমরা একসাথে ছিলাম। কোন দিন মৃদু ভাষণ ভিন্ন কোন কর্কশ কথা বলতে শুনিনি। সেই সুরেন্দ্রমোহন ঘোষ যেদিন বেরিয়ে আসবেন সেইদিন তাঁকে নিরাপত্তা বন্দী কোরে রাখা হ'ল। কি কারণে? কার নিরাপত্তার ব্যত্যয় তিনি ঘটিয়েছিলেন? এ প্রশ্নের জবাব নাই এদেশে। এখানে আছে—এদেশে যা কিছু অর্থ পাওয়া যায় ভাগ বাটোয়ারা কোরে নাও। কার ইঙ্গিতে? না, ব্রিটিশ সরকারের ইঙ্গিতে। কিন্তু এ শাসনে। এ শাসনপদ্ধতি দেশের লোকের জন্য, দেশের লোকের দরদে কি চলে? এই শাসনপদ্ধতিতে কি দেশের সর্বনাশ হচ্চে না? কত লোকের কথা বলব? কত শিক্ষক, কত ছাত্র, কত রোজগেরে পিতা বিনা বিচারে জেলখানায় মাসের পর মাস, বৎসরের পর বৎসর কাটাতে বাধ্য হচ্ছেন। একটা কথাও তাদের সম্বন্ধে এখানে আলোচনা হয় না। কেন? ভোটের জোর আছে বোলে, কিন্তু ভোটের জোর, ভাঁওতা বা মিথ্যা বুলি এ দিয়ে চলবে না। আমি আজ গোস্বামী প্রভুকে—তুলসীচরণ গোস্বামী প্রভুকে—জিজ্ঞাসা করব তুমি কোন অজুহাতে এই নীতি সমর্থন করেছ? "রুজী কা ওয়াস্তে" যাই করুন না কেন, তাঁরা নিশ্চয়ই মনে-প্রাণে প্রত্যেকের মুক্তি চান না --এত অধঃপাতে তাঁরা গিয়েছেন এ বিশ্বাস করতে ইচ্ছা করে না। তবে কেন সহযোগিতা করছেন? একজন মুচি, একজন মেথর, সে যদি সৎ হয়, আমি তাকে নমস্কার ক'রব; সে অস্পৃশ্য নয়। কিন্তু যারা জেনে শুনে দেশের অকল্যাণকর কাজ করেন, সর্ব প্রকারে যাঁরা দেশের শ্রেষ্ঠ লোক তাঁদের বন্দী কোরে রাখেন এবং তার জন্য ক্ষমতা জাহির করেন এবং নিজেদের ব্যক্তিত্বের বড়াই করেন, তাঁরাই অস্পৃশ্য। ওঁরা বলেন--আপনাদের ছেড়ে দিয়েছি। বড় ক্ষমতা আমাদের ছেড়ে দেবার। তবে কেন আজও সত্যপ্রিয় বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায় বিনা বিচারে

বন্দী? মন্ত্রিপক্ষের জনৈক বীরবর তাঁর পরম বন্ধু বলে নিজেকে জাহির করেন। তিনিও নাকি স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিনকে বন্দীমুক্তিতে সাহায্য করছেন। কেন এই ২ বছরেও সত্যপ্রিয় বন্দ্যোপাধ্যায় মুক্তি পেলেন না? কি কারণে? কাজেই ওসব বাজে ছেঁদো কথা দিয়ে আর চলবে না। "নোকরী কা ওয়াস্তে" তাঁদের এই কুকর্ম আজ দেশে দেশে নিন্দিত হবে। ফ্যাসিজম্ ধ্বংস হউক এ আমরা চাই; কিন্তু সাম্রাজ্যবাদ ততোধিক ধ্বংস হউক। এ দুটি একই বস্তুর এ পিঠ ওপিঠ। এর মধ্যে ভাল মন্দ কিছু বেছে নেবার নেই। তবে সাম্রাজ্যবাদ অধিকতর নিন্দনীয়। কেননা সাম্রাজ্যবাদ আমাদের এ দেশকে শ্মশানে পরিণত করেছে। আর সেই সাম্রাজ্যবাদের গুণগান আজ যাঁরা করছেন "নোকরী কা ওয়াস্তে"--ধিক্ তাঁদের শত ধিক্। আজকে কবির ভাষায় বলতে হয়--পৃথিবীর এই পটভূমিকায় আমাদের আশা করার বিশেষ কিছু নাই--

"অন্তহীন মৃত্যুর মশানে
রক্তের ইঙ্গন ঢালে পূর্ব্ব ও পশ্চিমে,
জ্বালায় পিশাচ আলো
নগরের নির্ব্বাপিত দীপে
আকাশে সমুদ্রে দ্বীপে
শিল্পে কর্ম্মে প্রেমে।"

কিছুই এখানে বেছে নেবার নাই। এখানে বিলাসিতার তরঙ্গ তুলে বক্তৃতা শুনে নিজেদের এখানে বাহবা দিয়ে লাভ হবে না। এখানে কোন কল্যাণকর কাজ হ'তে পারে না। আজ মন্ত্রী মহাশয়েরা যে যুক্তিই আনুন সে ছেঁদো যুক্তি হবে। সমস্ত দেশ আজ মর্ম্মে মর্ম্মে পীড়িত, তারা তাদের দেশের শ্রেষ্ঠ সন্তানদের ফিরিয়ে চাইছে। অতএব তাঁরা যদি দেশের সত্যকারের মন্ত্রী হন, তবে তাঁরা একটু সাহস দেখান। খাজা স্যার নাজিমুদ্দিন ও তুলসী-চরণ গোস্বামী প্রমুখ সকলে বলুন যে এই বন্দীদের মুক্তি দেব, নইলে নোকরী রাখব না।

"চক্রবৎ পরিবর্ত্তন্তে দুঃখানিচ সুখানিচ"--একদিন ফ্যাসিজমের জয় জয়াকার হয়েছিল আজ ফ্যাসিজমের কুপো-কাৎ। আজ জয় জয়াকার হল সাম্রাজ্যবাদের। কাল যে সাম্রাজ্যবাদ কাৎ হবে না তা কে বলতে পারে। যে-সব দেশ ফ্যাসিজমের দখলে ছিল সেখানকার Quislingদের আজ বিচার হচ্ছে। সাম্রাজ্যবাদের ধ্বংসের দিনে আমাদের দেশের Quislingদেরও বিচার হবে।--তখন।

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have allowed Mr. Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty to move an amendment to Dr. Sanyal's resolution at short notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: On a point of order. In the first place may we know when you allowed him and whether you allowed him subject to any objection that may be raised on behalf of the Opposition?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Sanyal, I think I have got power to allow an amendment at short notice. I got the notice in my chamber and I think the amendment is all right. Therefore I allowed that amendment to be moved.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: You have not yet allowed us to know what is the purport of the amendment.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The mover will read it out. Mr. Narendra Chakrabarty.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Before Narepdra Babu puts in his amended motion we want to know from you the nature of the amendment so that we can raise the question of admissibility and other objections.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already said that I have examined it and have found it all right and I have allowed it.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: What is it? Let us know that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The amendment is as follows:—

(1) Substitute for the words "set at liberty, without further delay" in the second line the words "consider the desirability of adopting a more liberal policy regarding the release of", and

(2) add after the word "disturbances" in line 4 the following "in view of the improved war situation, and desires to record its appreciation of the progressive policy so far pursued by the present Ministry in regard to the release of political prisoners and detenus".

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: May I make my submissions, Sir, with regard to the question of order, wisdom and propriety of allowing this sort of a short-notice amendment at this very late stage?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: I will not enter into the technical questions as to what power you have or have not because that will merely be an academic question. But I will straight invite you to the question of impropriety, the question of unwisdom and the question of infringing the liberty of the members of the House.

In the first place, Sir, if you go into the motion you will find that it is not an amendment at all, although it pretends to be one. Under the garb of being an amendment it practically seeks to introduce a motion which goes counter to the original motion of Dr. Sanyal and which defeats the very purpose for which the motion of Dr. Sanyal was brought. For example, Dr. Sanyal's motion was to focus the attention of this House upon the inaction, upon the inattention, upon the ineffective policy of Government with regard to political prisoners, that is to say, it was a direct censure upon the Government and its policy, but my good friend Mr. Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty's amendment is only a reversal of what Dr. Sanyal seeks to do, namely, it wants to praise the Ministry, it wants to give a vote of confidence on the very question on which Dr. Sanyal wants to give a vote of no-confidence.

Look at it from another point of view. Dr. Sanyal's motion was intended for securing the immediate release of prisoners, whereas Mr. Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty wants to give a vote against that through this amendment. Let us go straight to the vote. Let us be defeated; that is a different matter, but let us not be humbugged by a resolution which is not an amendment, which is a reversal of the resolution which was sponsored by Dr. Sanyal.

Then, Sir, there is another matter. The question as to whether this resolution is one of confidence or not is a matter which is the property of the House. It is not for the Speaker, even if he has the power, to deal with a motion which seeks to change the entire character of the main motion. If we have brought a motion which means a no-confidence against the Ministry and if my good friend Mr. Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty wants to have a motion affirming confidence, he can bring in a special motion, he can bring in a special resolution for serving that purpose, but we do not like to be humbugged in this manner.

Coming to another question, you know, Sir, that Dr. Sanyal moved this motion on the previous day. It was before the House for one whole day; a full dress debate was concentrated upon the matter; and today we are practically on the eve of going to the vote. If you now allow Mr. Narendra Narayan Chakrabarty to move this matter even by way of an amendment, it brings new factors which have got to be discussed and debated upon, that is to say, the matter cannot be finished today. There you yourself, Sir,—not only the Opposition—but you too will play into the trickery handling of the Coalition Party. They want to delay the matter. We want to get the matter disposed of here and now. Therefore, Sir, it is entirely against the known principles of legislative debate to allow a matter to change its entire colour at a late stage and introduce new matter which will give a thoroughly different and foreign complexion to the whole thing. Therefore in point of fairness, in point of justice, in point of the urgency of the

matter, we want to go to the vote straightway today and I hope that will not allow this amendment which is not only at the 11th hour but at the 59th second of the 59th minute of the 11th hour. (Applause.)

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: On a point of order, Sir. May I invite your attention to rules 90, 85 and 91 of the Procedure Rules? Rule 90 says: "When a resolution is under discussion any member may, subject to the rules relating to resolutions, move an amendment" to such a resolution. That is, an amendment may be moved only subject to the rules relating to resolutions.

Now, Sir, let us turn to the rule about resolutions. That rule, Sir, you will find, is rule 85. There it is stated: "A member who wishes to move a resolution shall give twenty-one days' notice of his intention, and shall, together with the notice, submit a copy of the resolution which he wishes to move". Then there is a proviso: "Provided that the Speaker, with the consent of the Minister in charge of the Department to which the resolution relates, may allow a resolution to be entered on the list of business at shorter notice than twenty-one days". That is, Sir, so far as resolutions go, you can allow a resolution to be entered on the List of Business and moved at a shorter notice after consulting the Minister in charge. Rule 91 is of course governed by rule 85. Now, Sir, so far as rule 90 is concerned, a member may, subject to the rules relating to resolutions, move an amendment to such resolution. It may be moved at shorter notice if you permit it. There is no doubt about that. We have got to see, however, whether any notice has been given at all or not. Sir, the resolution was taken up on a previous date a week ago. After some discussion further discussion on the resolution—was adjourned. No amendment was then notified and now an amendment is going to be moved. It is an amendment which is going to be moved without notice and not at short notice. It would have been a short-notice amendment if notice had been given before the resolution was actually moved and the honourable member had notice of it then. Only in that case you could have said: "Here is an amendment at short notice and I am entitled to admit the amendment under rule 85 read with rule 90." But here is a amendment which is being moved without any notice whatsoever. It did not come at all before the introduction or discussion of the resolution. It was only after the resolution has been debated for a day and more that this amendment is coming—an amendment of which the terms are unknown to us even now. It is an amendment which is without notice—not an amendment in respect of which you can exercise your discretion; and, Sir, it has not been circulated. The House has got no notice of it. Only you, Sir, may have got some notice, but the House has got no notice at all.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a fact that notice has not been given. Notice was given——

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: To whom and when? We are entitled to know that.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Notice was given before and it was addressed to the Secretary, Bengal Legislative Assembly Department.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Today?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes. As regards Mr. Sanyal's grievances, he has pointed out many things, but he has not pointed out whether it infringes the rules or not. So far as allowing this amendment at shorter notice is concerned, I think it is in order.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: When did you get notice, Sir?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just when I entered this House I got notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: After you took the chair?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: That is no notice.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: But I have allowed it.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, আমি rules 90 and 91 ছাড়াও একথা বল্‌তে চাই যে স্পীকারের একটা অধিকার আছে বটে যে short notice amendment allow করতে পারেন, কিন্তু আমাদের এই হাউসের convention লক্ষ্য করলে দেখি যে গত ৯ বছরের মধ্যে কোন দিন এ রকম convention হয়নি যে resolutionএ already discussion আরম্ভ হয়ে একদিন শেষ হয়েছে তারপরে হঠাৎ সেখানে একটা amendment আস্‌বে, এবং সেই amendment হাউসের কোন মেম্বর জান্‌বে না। হাউসের নিয়ম অনুসারে ২৪ ঘণ্টার নোটিশ দরকার--short notice amendment আন্‌তে হলে। কিন্তু এক্ষেত্রে তা হয়নি। তবে আজ যদি আপনি কোন মেম্বরকে special privilege দেন সে স্বতন্ত্র কথা, কিন্তু সেটা কেন যে দিচ্ছেন তা বুঝতে পার্‌ছি না।

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: We want to know when the notice of amendment was received by the Secretary.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Today.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot say definitely whether there are precedents in this House or not, but so far as I remember there are precedents for allowing amendments to motions or resolutions at a very short notice.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, আপনি যে কথা বল্‌লেন সেটা হ'ল বিল সম্বন্ধে। কিন্তু resolution সম্বন্ধে Houseএ বসে এ রকম amendment এই ৯ বছরের মধ্যে কখন হয়নি, একথা আমি জোর করে বল্‌তে পারি। আপনি এ বিষয়ে ইচ্ছা করলে আপনার Secretaryকে refer করতে পারেন।

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: On a point of order. May I try to refresh your memory Sir? Amendments have been admitted before at short notice—there is no doubt about that—but without the objection of the Opposition. It was only when an amendment had been agreed to by the Opposition then only it might have been allowed. If an amendment at short notice is accepted the Speaker accepts the amendment only because it comes not with objection on the part of anybody but rather with the approval of the whole House and it is for that reason the amendment might have been accepted even without notice. But, Sir, so far as the present amendment is concerned it comes 'with our objection'. We have objection to the amendment proposed. You have, Sir, got the amendment only today after discussion of the original resolution started. That is to say, you got the amendment almost without notice and I submit, Sir, that you have no power in the present circumstances when we have objection to accept the amendment.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: Sir, I do not know when the amendment was handed over to the Secretary. Rule 91(2) lays down that "the Secretary shall, if time permits, cause every amendment to be printed and send a copy for the information of each member". Mark the expression "the Secretary *shall* if time permits". The question is when it was received and after it has been received it is obligatory on the part of the Secretary to cause the amendment to be printed and to send a copy for the information of each member. So it is obligatory; the word "shall" is there.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The position as I find it is this. So far we were only examining the admissibility of the amendment under the present rules and I feel that it is without the competence of the Speaker or the Deputy Speaker presiding to accept any amendment at any state.

With regard to the difficulty pointed out in this respect I have to submit that when on another occasion you were in the Chair the famous amendment of Mr. Syed Badruddoja which sought to completely negative a motion by an honourable member of the European Party then discussed and debated in the House for some time was accepted by you and vehemently pressed by my friends in the House for acceptance at that time at short notice. Therefore when this proposal was first brought to my notice in your Chamber I stated this much that it is entirely within your competence to accept it, but I acquiesced without prejudice to my position, and I made it clear that so far as my original motion is concerned we will stand by it. We shall therefore be no party to the acceptance of this amendment and we shall remain free to vote against it. Of course, we consider that this amendment as now sought to be moved is contrary to the spirit of my own original motion. But, Sir, I will not try to misguide you by quoting any section or rules to show that it is not within your power or competence to accept the amendment even at this stage.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, you ask Dr. Sanyal to clarify one point, namely, whether this amendment would negative the motion moved by Dr. Sanyal.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That will not help the House.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, you asked Dr. Sanyal to assist you in the matter. He has said what he has got to say. He has clearly placed before the House that this amendment is a negation of the substantive motion, but he has referred to the famous amendment of Mr. Syed Badruddoja moved on another occasion when unfortunate incidents took place in the House. Do you want that the whole matter should be repeated today including the tumult, etc., and the rush at the Chair?

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, if you allow Mr. Narendra Narayan Chakravarty to move his amendment—we want to make it clear that one wrong even when it was accepted cannot be a precedent to another wrong—and make that a precedent to allow the so-called humbug amendment of Mr. Narendra Narayan Chakravarty we shall have to use all our power to throttle it.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: Sir, on a point of order.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot allow any more point of order.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: We will not allow Mr. Narendra Narayan Chakravarty to move his amendment.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Dr. Sanyal has made the position perfectly clear that the so-called amendment is a direct negation of the motion already moved by him. That I think ought to be a settler on the question as to whether at this eleventh hour this amendment can be admitted by you or not. But the precedent that Dr. Sanyal has cited is in my opinion a singularly unfortunate one because on the occasion to which reference has been made when Mr. Syed Badruddoja's amendment was admitted by you, pandemonium was let loose in the House under the leadership of Sir Nazimuddin, the then Leader of the Opposition, and a rush was made at the Chair which was being occupied by you at that time for your alleged dereliction of duty and your partiality and bias as it was characterised by the Opposition. I wish, Sir, such a precedent had not been cited in this House. Tables might have been turned now but you, Sir, the occupant of the Chair on that occasion, are the occupant of the Chair on this occasion also. I am sure, that the hint that the Opposition gave so tumultuously on that occasion will not be repeated now. So far as we are concerned we are absolutely unwilling to tread their footsteps but we must say that we are not going to allow this amendment to be moved here if we can help it.

Mr. SYED BADRUDDOJA: Sir, reference has been made to a particular amendment which was moved by me on a particular occasion—whether it was fortunate or unfortunate is not the question to be dealt with on this occasion. Even in that case copies of the amendment were before the House. They were circulated previously to honourable members. That was objected to by the Leader of the Opposition on the ground that it was of a negative character negativing the substantive motion: not on the question of notice. There is a considerable difference between that amendment and the amendment sought to be moved today. Therefore that analogy does not hold good on this occasion.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am not concerned with what I did with regard to Mr. Badruddoja's motion on a previous occasion. I wanted assistance from the leaders of the different parties as to whether this amendment would really negative the original motion. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Undoubtedly it does; there is no doubt about that.) The point is that I wanted to clarify the position and I hope the leaders of different parties will assist me in arriving at a decision. I have already stated that I have allowed this motion and I would now ask the Leader of the House to assist me whether this really infringes the rule or not.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, as far as the rules question is concerned, I do not think that there can be any two opinions that the Speaker has the right to accept an amendment as a short notice amendment.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Without notice? No, not without notice.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Short notice amendments have been accepted even on the floor of the House.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: It was only by agreement.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No, without agreement even

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Never.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Can the Hon'ble Minister cite any example?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: It will not do to ask for an example. I can say that there have been such cases, during my experience of 20 years——

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: There are members in the House with much larger experience than yourself and they say that there has never been such an occasion.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I shall not make any attempt to correct the members. On the occasion that has been mentioned by Dr. Sanyal, at that time objection was not taken to the allowing of a short notice amendment but objection was taken on the ground that that amendment would raise a very important issue and that therefore proper time should be given. I quite agree that if the honourable members think that this amendment raises an important issue which requires time and consideration, I am quite willing to agree that the matter may be postponed.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: We know that is your trick to regularise it: you want to shelve the matter. That we will not allow.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: This thing can be discussed after giving proper time.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You can move a special motion of the Government if you like.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: If the honourable members feel that they are in a serious disadvantage and it is unfair to them, I for one am not prepared to say, "No, this thing must be done". If they feel that this is a matter on which they are placed at a very serious disadvantage, I am prepared not to press the amendment. That is the position I take, but I do maintain that this must not be treated as a precedent.

As regards the right of the Chair to accept a short notice amendment at any stage, that point should be made absolutely clear. I personally think that the Speaker has every right in this matter. As far as the interpretation of the rules is concerned, not only this resolution is fully justified but it cannot by any means be treated as a negation of the original resolution. I am prepared to place this matter before any parliamentarian of experience that this amendment is not only legitimate and proper but there is nothing against it also. It is within the discretion of the Chair to accept it.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sorry, we do not agree.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think, it would be better if we decide the matter after prayer adjournment.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, it is not yet time for adjournment. We want to have more speeches and then have the matter voted.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will be adjourned for prayer at 6-45 p.m. and only ten minutes is now left. It is better that the House be adjourned at this stage till 7 p.m. and I desire in the meantime to consult with the leaders of different parties.

At this stage the House was adjourned till 7 p.m.

(After adjournment.)

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I may tell the honourable members that I have found out precedents so far as allowing amendments at a shorter notice or without notice is concerned. It is no use adding instances. I have got ready two instances. However, in view of the statement made by the Leader of the House I am prepared to ask Mr. Narendra Narayan Chakravarty not to press his motion. The original motion is with you. Yes, Mr. Kundu.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, I rise to accord my wholehearted support and the support of the party of which I am an humble member to the very important motion that my esteemed friend Dr. Sanyal has so ably moved. I endorse every word of what Dr. Sanyal said in support of the resolution, and what the previous speakers said. I shall not appeal only to the sentiments of the members present here but I shall appeal to their good sense as responsible citizens and to the political sense and reasonings and to the sense of duty and responsibility that they have as representatives or Ministers of this province.

Sir, I shall ask them to look into the question from the following backgrounds: this province stands first in regard to the number of detention when other provinces are emptying out their jails of the political prisoners; the second and most important thing that I remind them all is the sacred pledge and promise that they held out before the public just on the eve of formation of this Ministry in regard to the policy of release and granting of amenities to the political prisoners in this province. I shall particularly remind our friend Mr. Tulsi Chandra Goswami and Mr. Barada Prosanna Pain about their pledges. I must say I shall not do justice if I do not admit that the Parliamentary Secretary of the Home Department has done a good lot in this regard, but even then I must say regretfully that they have not been able to partially implement the promise and pledge

they held out before the public at the time of the formation of the Ministry. You may remember that you wanted to bring back our Leader Shree Sarat Chandra Bose to his place in Bengal. You wanted to see him, but it is regrettable and deplorable that you have not been able even to secure an interview with that gentleman. Sir, I must say that you have failed hopelessly to implement your promise and I do not know how you can with this humiliation continue to be in office, how you can reconcile with your past conduct and be there in the office for nothing.

Sir, from that background you are to see that the political conditions have altogether changed. The subjective and objective conditions favourable for movements are not existing now as they were existing in the years 1942 and 1943. The political leaders who have come out from the prisons have unequivocally announced that this is not the time suitable for the continuance or starting of any fresh political movement. Those who have come out of the jails in this province are busy with work other than political movement because they know that political movement is now an impossibility.

Sir, in reply to today's question, the Parliamentary Secretary told us that even in the year 1942 when the movement was going on in full swing, the then Ministers were able to release about 500 prisoners. Now, what justification has this Ministry to detain these prisoners for nothing?

Sir, they have not only failed to implement their promise but they have not shown any indication that they have any sympathy for the cause of these political prisoners. If you depend on the records of the Special Branch and I.B. police, if you act according to their dictates, I must say that these Ministers are nothing but so many tails of those departments and the permanent officials and they act according to the sweet will of the Special Branch and I. B. police.

Sir, I must say that these Ministers have not only forfeited the confidence of the public for this indifference to the cause of the political prisoners, but they are not entitled to detain these political prisoners because they have also failed to grant them the amenities which even the rules—the Jail Code Rules and the Bengal Security Prisoners Rules—provide for them.

Sir, I will read a few letters written to me from different jails by the political prisoners to show how there is lack of control and lack of supervision over the jail administration. I will ask the Hon'ble Home Minister, has he got any contact with the political prisoners? Has he ever gone to see them? If he has gone to see them, how often has he gone to see them? If he will go to see them, if he will get in touch with them, I am sure he will find an easy solution for the political prisoners. He cannot but release them.

Sir, I can give two or three instances. I can cite the instance of Mr. Satyapriya Banerji. As the House knows, I had some connection with the past political agitations in this province. When there was a talk of starting a movement in the year 1942 which the Congress leaders could not start, we were thinking about this movement. We thought that this would be the last movement and after this we would attain full political and economic freedom. I had a talk and discussion with Mr. Satyapriya Banerji. He told me straightaway that on account of several difficulties about his family, he could not take part in the movement. Sir, he has been detained and he is rotting in the jail up till now.

Again, I know one Mr. Rakhal Chandra Datta who is an Advocate of the High Court. He always tried to keep himself aloof from any political movement. He is being detained in the Presidency Jail.

Then, I know the case of Mr. Pramatha Kumar Chakravarty, another Advocate of the High Court. He had certainly some connection with the politics—not political movement but political party, say, 30 or 40 years

back and he was keeping himself completely aloof from any political activity. He has been detained. There are several instances like this which I can cite. There was one——

(At this stage the blue light was lit.)

Sir, I shall require another 15 minutes.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Kundu, it was the agreement that you will speak for only 10 minutes and, after that, the Hon'ble Chief Minister will speak.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I shall take only 10 minutes. I shall read some letters.

Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It was agreed in a conference with the Leaders that after you finish in 10 minutes, the Hon'ble Leader of the House will speak and there would be voting after that. That was the agreement.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that there must be voting, I cannot represent the cases of the female prisoners. Out of 18 female prisoners, 12 prisoners are suffering in the jail.

Sir, the threat of the Japanese invasion is now over. Hitler is going to be defeated very soon in the European field. Sir, if Germany and Japan have not been able to give defeat to the British Government, I think these female prisoners, if they are allowed to come out, will not upset this Government. Not to speak of the lady prisoner even the whole lot of the security prisoners if released, will not be able to upset this Government.

Sir, I wanted to read some letters without any comment. I am not allowed to read them because, Sir, you say there has been agreement. I did not like to make a speech about the resolution because I thought it was a very serious question which was agitating the minds of the entire public and I would not do justice to the cause within so short a time. I wanted also to speak about those members of the Legislature who were in detention. I want to know, I want to put this question straight to the Hon'ble Minister, for whose security—is it for the security of the Ministers that they have been kept in detention within the prison walls. They can be allowed to come here. There may be arrangements made to bring them here, to allot separate seats for them so that they may not communicate with other members except taking part in the deliberations of this House. If the Home Minister is ready to do that, we shall feel that he is honestly detaining them; if he is not agreeable to do that, we shall feel that there is security for others for whom he is thinking, and not for the security of this empire. They have not given sufficient maintenance to the families of the prisoners. They are doing absolutely nothing.

Sir, I have to take my seat very reluctantly, because I had many things to say and I could have placed before the House facts by which the public could have judged how indifferently, how unsympathetically and how callously they are treating this very important question which is agitating the minds of the entire public of this Province.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I fully realize the importance of this motion and the interests which the members on the other side of the House take on this question. I do not think they fully appreciate the fact that in this matter I have taken a very keen interest and the policy of this Government has been not only always as far as possible to effect release, but if they cannot do that to treat all cases with utmost sympathy and whenever any case is brought to my notice where a real hardship is being felt by a prisoner or his family, or there is a case where special concession is necessary, and if it can be done——

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Every detention causes hardship.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Of all persons Mr. Sanyal should be the last person to say that.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Why, why? There was no justification for keeping him indefinitely in detention.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, as I was saying, whenever it can be done without jeopardizing the security of the Province, it is always done. As I have several times said in this House, I have had personal contacts with most of the prominent leaders of the parties. I have seen them before their release in 1937, after their release, and again after they have been in detention. I think the members on the other side of the House have unintentionally compared the number of detention in this Province with other Provinces mixing up the two special cases of those who have been detained (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Without trial.) No, for the August disturbances; those who do not belong to any subversive organisation and those who have been detained for being members of subversive organisations. Sir, I have always here and outside maintained that there is a distinction between the two classes of prisoners. Those who belong to any subversive organisation have been in Bengal detained off and on for a number of years—for the last 20 years or more. Some of them have spent most part of their lives in detention. Their cases are quite different from those who (Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: That is a Police philosophy) took part in All-India movements like the movements at the time of 1920 Non-co-operation movement, 1930 Civil Disobedience movement, and those arrested on the occasion of the disturbances of August, 1942. Of the latter category, in Bengal at the present time, about 50 persons are detained. (Cries of "Question, question" from the Opposition benches.) I would refer the honourable members to the answer given in the Central Assembly some time ago on this question compared to other Provinces except especially the Provinces where there is section 93, you will find that the number of this category of prisoners is in hundreds, I mean the Provinces like United Provinces, Bihar, Central Provinces, Bombay and Madras, whereas in Bengal the number is only 50, in Punjab it is 60 and in Sind and North-West Frontier Provinces the number is still lower. I admit that so far as those persons who belong to the subversive organisations are concerned——

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Nobody belongs to such organisations.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Try them for conspiracy if you like.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAYA: Tell that you are unable to release them, but don't create a scene. Don't add insult to injury.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: These comments are coming from those who were at one time responsible for putting a large number of persons in detention. I cannot understand how they are making comments of this kind.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: They are kept in detention for an indefinite period. There is no justification.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: They remained in office for more than 12 months after putting them in detention.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Not 12 months.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: And they released 500 persons within that period.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Anyhow I can assure the members of this House that the cases of these prisoners are periodically reviewed. They are being detained at the present time only because on account of the war emergency, it is not possible to take the risk of releasing them. Certain persons are detained at the instance of the Government of India. I would like to correct a statement I made in the other House—in the other place, if I am correct to say that—about the Provincial Government being responsible for the detention of the security prisoners by saying that it is a subject on which the Government of India as well have a say. In certain cases on certain occasions the Government of India have got to be consulted before any policy of release is accepted or adopted. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: And not Messrs. Amery and Churchill!): Sir, I am surprised at Mr. Haripada Chatterjee's speech. I have repeatedly stated that if you accept a constitution and come to this Assembly or accept office, you must play the game according to the rules (RAI HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: You must submit to order.) (Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAYA: Must we play as Churchill and Amery want us to play?) and especially on the occasion of war when even in 1944 not only India was actually invaded, but there was every danger of the Province itself being invaded, it was not possible to release the prisoners who were likely to sabotage the cause of the country. (Interruption.)

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Release them now.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Release them now.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAYA: They would defend the country.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: It is all right for some honourable members to say that these people would have defended the country. God alone knows what they would have done. I do know this that there are a number of people even now with whom—we get not only information but also we get papers and other things from which it can be seen—the emissaries of Japan are in contact——

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Papers can be manufactured.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: They are also actually trying to assist the enemy.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Question, question.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: So far as my Hindu colleagues and particularly Mr. Narendra Narayan Chakravarty are concerned, they are always trying to assist the security prisoners, bringing their cases to my notice and wherever possible, trying to get them released. I would like to assure the House that as far as the policy of this Government is concerned we are only too anxious to release these prisoners as soon as we feel that there is no risk or danger. Whenever any case is brought to my notice or to the notice of Secretary who is dealing with the case which is deserving of sympathy, it is dealt with sympathetically and with the utmost consideration possible. I am not one of those persons who believe that because they are well-fed and well-kept, they ought to be very well off. Detention under any conditions whatsoever is one of the severest strains that can be put on a person. (Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: It is barbarous). It is a restriction of liberty which I abhor.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHYAYA: He is shedding crocodile tears. He has no sympathy.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I can assure the members of the House that at the earliest opportunity the policy of Government will be to release these political prisoners.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Only one question, Sir. The Hon'ble Sir Nazimuddin has stated that sometimes they have got to consult the Government of India in the matter of release. Will he kindly reconcile that statement of his with the declaration made in Parliament by Mr. Amery that all detentions and arrests are made mostly by Governments functioning on the parliamentary system?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I don't think that it would be difficult to reconcile that with what I stated.

The motion of Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that this Assembly is of opinion that the Government of Bengal should set at liberty, without further delay, all political security prisoners detained in Bengal and all persons convicted of offences connected with political movements or disturbances was then put and a division taken with the following result:—

AYES—50.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mia.
Abdul Majid, Maulvi (Mymensingh)
Abdul Wahed Bokainagari, Maulvi.
Abdur Razzak, Maulvi.
Azimuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Badruddoja, Mr. Syed.
Banerjee, Mr. Pramatha Nath
Banerji, Mr. P.
Basu, Mr. Santosh Kumar
Bhawmik, Dr. Gobinda Chandra
Chattopadhya, Mr. Haripada
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendra Nath
Das, Babu Radhanath
Das Gupta, Dr. J. M.
Datta, Mr. Dhirendra Nath
Deloi, Mr. Harendra Nath
Dutta, Mr. Sukumar
Dutta Gupta, Miss Mira
Ghose, Mr. Atul Krishna
Giasuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra
Jalan, Mr. I. D.
Jonab Ali Majumdar, Maulvi
Khan, Mr. Debendra Lall
Kumar, Mr. Atul Chandra
Kundu, Mr. Nishitha Nath
Majumdar, Mrs. Hemaprova
Mal, Mr. Iswar Chandra
Mandal, Mr. Birat Chandra
Maqbul Hossain, Mr.
Mukherjee, Mr. B.
Mukherji, Dr. Sharat Chandra
Mullick, Srijut Ashutosh
Ramizuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Roy, Mr. Charu Chandra
Roy, Mr. Kamakrishna
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar
Roy, Mr. Manmatha Nath
Roy, Mr. Patiram
Sanaullah, Dr.
Sanyal, Dr. Nalinaksha
Sanyal, Mr. Sasanka Sekhar
Sen, Mr. Atul Chandra
Sen, Jogesh Chandra, Rai Bahadur
Sen-Gupta, Mrs. Nellie
Shamsuddin Ahmed, Mr.
Sinha, Srijut Maniendra Bhusan
Sur, Mr. Harendra Kumar
Thakur, Mr. Pramatha Ranjan
Wahur Rahman, Maulvi

NOES—73.

Abdul Hafiz, Mr. Mirza.
Abdul Hakim, Maulvi (Mymensingh)
Abdul Karim, Mr.
Abdul Majid, Mr. Syed (Noakhali)
Abdul Motaleb Malik, Dr.
Abdul Wahab Khan, Khan Bahadur
Abdulla-al Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rahman, Khan Bahadur A. F. M.
Abdur Rashid Mahmood, Mr.
Abdur Rauf, Khan Bahadur Shah (Rangpur)
Abul Hasad, Kazi
Abul Quasem, Maulvi
Ahmed Khan, Mr. Syed
Altafuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi
Barat Ali, Mr. Md.
Barma, the Hon'ble Mr. Promhari
Chakraborty, Babu Narendra Narayan
Chippendale, Mr. J. W.
Corsterphine, Mr. E. E.
Das, Rai Sahib Anukul Chandra
Farhat Banu Khanam, Begum
Fazlul Quadir, Khan Bahadur Maulvi
Fazlur Rahman, Mr. (Dacca)
Fazlur Rahman, Khan Bahadur (Mymensingh)
Gladding, Mr. D., C. I. E.
Golam Rabbani Ahammad, Maulvi
Gomes, Mr. R. A.
Goswami, the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra
Gupta, Mr. J. N.
Gurung, Mr. Dumber Singh
Gyasuddin Ahmed Choudhury, Alhadj
Hamiduddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib
Hasanuzzaman, Khan Sahib Maulvi Md.
Hasina Murshed, Mrs., M.B.E.
Haywood, Mr. Rogers
Idris Ahmed Mia, Maulvi
Jalaluddin Ahmad, the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi
Jalimuddin Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi
Kazem Ali Mirza, Sahibzada Kawan Jah Syed
Mafizuddin Ahmed, Khan Sahib Maulvi (Tippera)
Mandal, Mr. Amrita Lal
Mandal, Mr. Sanku Behari
Mandal, the Hon'ble Mr. Jogendra Nath
Maniruddin Akhand, Maulvi
Mathold, Mr. J. H.
Mohammed Ali, Khan Bahadur
Morgan, Mr. G., C.I.E.
Moslem Ali Mollah, Maulvi M.
Mozammel Hoq, Maulvi Md.
Muhammad Ibrahim, Maulvi
Muhammad Ishaque, Maulvi
Muhammad Israil, Maulvi

Muhammad Sulaiman, Khan Bahadur Maulvi
Mukerjea, the Hon'ble Mr. Taraknath, M.B.E.
Mullick, Mr. Mukunda Behary
Nazimuddin, the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir, K.C.I.E.
Nooruddin, Mr. K.
Raikut, Mr. Prasanna Deb
Sadiruddin Ahmed, Haji
Serajul Islam, Mr.
Shahabuddin, the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja, C.B.E.
Shamsuddin Ahmed Khondkar, Mr.
Singha, Babu Kshetra Nath
Sirdar, Babu Lilta Nanda
Smart, Mr. J. N.
Stark, Mr. A. F.
Stevenson, Mr. R. A. H.
Suhrawardy, the Hon'ble Mr. H. S.
Tamizuddin Khan, the Hon'ble Mr.
Thorman, Mr. G. M.
Walker, Mr. J. R.
Yusuf Ali Choudhury, Mr.
Zillur Rahman Shah Choudhury, Maulvi

The Ayes being 50 and the Noes 73, the motion was lost.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-35 p.m., till 4 p.m. on Monday, the 5th March, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Monday, the 5th March, 1945, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 12 Hon'ble Ministers and 172 members.

Want of Quorum.

(As soon as Starred Question No. 127 was called the attention of Mr. Speaker was drawn to the fact that there was no quorum. The bell was then rung and afterwards it was found that there was quorum.)

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Illness of Miss Kamala Das Gupta, B.A., a security prisoner.

***127. Miss MIRA DUTTA GUPTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) if it is a fact that Miss Kamala Das Gupta, B.A., a security prisoner in the Presidency Jail, is suffering from a serious illness and that her conditions are alarming;

(*b*) what arrangements have been made for her medical treatment;

(*c*) whether disease has been diagnosed;

(*d*) if so, what is the diagnosis;

(*e*) whether any expert examined her;

(*f*) if so, who and when;

(*g*) what was her weight at the time she was taken into the jail and her present weight; and

(*h*) whether she is having rise in temperature now?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*), (*c*) and (*d*) The prisoner has been suffering from tuberculosis of the spine but her condition is not alarming.

(*b*) She was sent to the Medical College Hospitals for treatment but she refused to undergo the treatment—operative or otherwise—recommended by Lieut.-Colonel Anderson and Dr. L. M. Banerjee.

(*e*) and (*f*) Colonel Anderson of the Medical College Hospitals examined her in November, 1943, and Dr. L. M. Banerjee in April, 1944.

(*g*) Weight on admission—104 lbs.
Weight at present—99 lbs

(*h*) No.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*b*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether, while refusing to undergo the treatment, she did assign any reason for her refusal?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, she did.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what objection was made?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: She stated that she would refuse to undergo the treatment while in detention.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he thinks it desirable to release her on the ground of health?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir, not at present.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that the only treatment for such disease is complete rest——

Mr. SPEAKER: You are giving your own opinion. But you are not an expert in the line, so you cannot say that.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that she will have to take complete rest, what apprehension there is in the mind of the Government that if she is released she will take to subversive movement or other movements?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: From the answer just given to my question do we understand that Miss Das Gupta was sent to the Medical College Hospital against her will?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. She was sent to the Medical College Hospital for treatment and Dr. L. M. Banerjee and Lt.-Col. Anderson prescribed that she should undergo some treatment and they prescribed that there should be a plaster of Paris jacket but she refused to undergo the treatment because she was in detention.

Female security prisoners and their treatment at Eden Hospital.

*128. **Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*a*) that lady security prisoners, if ill and sent to the Eden Hospital, Medical College, are always placed under the treatment of European Surgeon and not under an Indian Surgeon;

(*b*) that Mrs. Leela Roy, M.A., a security prisoner, when admitted for kidney troubles into the Eden Hospital, Medical College, for the second time after surgical operation for fibroid was transferred from Medical College to the Dinajpur Jail before urine culture report was ready and available and completion of her treatment there and Colonel Murray consented to her transfer in the circumstance stated above;

(*c*) that she is yet undergoing medical treatment in the Dinajpur Jail;

(*d*) that Sreemati Uma Guha, security prisoner in the Presidency Jail, was examined by Colonel Murray who sent her back to the Presidency Jail as the Surgeon diagnosed that she had no disease at all;

(*e*) that the said Sreemati Uma Guha developed serious illness only two days after the aforesaid examination by Colonel Murray, and sent to emergency department; and

(*f*) that Colonel Murray this time found on examination her complaint true and admitted her in the Eden Hospital?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Female security prisoners are admitted in the Medical College Hospitals (Eden Hospital in case of female diseases) after ascertaining that beds are available. After admission it is left entirely to the hospital authorities to decide under which Surgeon or physician the patient will be kept. There is no hard and fast rule in this matter.

(*b*) Mrs. Leela Roy was under the treatment of Dr. M. N. Sarkar during her second admission in the Eden Hospital. As he was of opinion that there was nothing wrong with the prisoner and as she was found fit for travel she was transferred to the Dinajpur Jail for administrative reasons. Her urine culture report was subsequently sent to Dinajpur.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) to (*f*) The prisoner was first examined by Colonel Murray who did not consider her admission necessary at that stage. After a few days she had uterine hæmorrhage and was admitted in the hospital for necessary treatment.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answers (*a*) and (*b*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether except Mrs. Lila Roy who, as it appears from the answer, was under the treatment of an Indian Surgeon in the hospital, any other lady security prisoner has been under the treatment of an Indian Surgeon?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why Mrs. Leela Roy was transferred to the Dinajpur Jail and the transfer was not postponed till the urine culture report was available?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Firstly, she was transferred to the Dinajpur Jail for administrative reasons, as I have already stated in my reply (*b*). So far as the question of urine culture report was concerned, that was necessary for subsequent treatment for which a whole course was prescribed by Dr. M. N. Sarkar. The report was sent to Dinajpur where the Medical Officer in charge of security prisoners would follow the course of treatment prescribed by Dr. M. N. Sarkar.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many days after she had left for Dinajpur the urine culture report was available?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many days after Sreemati Uma Guha was sent back to the Presidency Jail she was again examined for the second time by Col. Murray?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is it a fact that only after two days of her first examination by Col. Murray she developed symptoms of uterine haemorrhage and was sent back to Medical College for examination?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot say, after how many days, but after examination by Col. Murray when she was sent back to the jail she had uterine haemorrhage and she was sent back to the Medical College Hospital and re-examined by Col. Murray.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to reply (*a*), it is quite certain that Col. Murray was very much indifferent—

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot say that. That is a question of opinion.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Because she was sent——

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another matter.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is it a fact that she was sent to the Medical College after definite diagnosis of the disease and was sent here only to be examined by a specialist for confirmation?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: She was sent to the Medical College Hospitals for examination by some specialists. Col. Murray examined her and was of opinion that her admission was not necessary in the Medical College Hospitals. She could receive treatment as an outdoor patient. After her return to the jail, she developed uterine haemorrhage when she was sent back to the Medical College Hospitals. Col. Murray examined her again and took up her treatment as an indoor patient.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: My definite information is that she was sent there, after definite diagnosis of the uterine trouble, only for confirmation of that after examination by a medical expert.

Mr. SPEAKER: That does not matter in the least.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I want to drive at——

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot drive at anything. You can only ask for facts.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I am asking whether it is a fact that she was sent to the Medical College after definite diagnosis by the jail medical officer only for the purpose of confirmation as to whether the diagnosis that was made by the jail medical officer was right or not?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of the fact whether there was any definite diagnosis or not. There was a diagnosis to the effect that she was suffering from uterine trouble but whether the exact nature of the trouble was diagnosed or not I am not aware. Col. Murray examined the security prisoner and he was of opinion that her admission as indoor patient was not necessary and she was sent back. So far as uterine haemorrhage was concerned, this occurred later and she was sent back to the Medical College Hospitals. The prisoner was again examined by Col. Murray who took her in charge as an indoor patient and treated her.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirbale to further enquire into the matter whether during the first examination Col. Murray was careless, indifferent and negligent?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.,There is no question of indifference.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, I want to elicit facts. You do not allow me. We have definite information that Col. Murray is always very negligent and careless.

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot discuss the conduct of a medical officer in the course of putting supplementary questions. That is another matter. You cannot discuss.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, I am not discussing. Is he the Governor of Bengal?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. If you think that a certain Government officer is not doing his duties properly, you will have ample opportunities of discussing the conduct of that officer in course of the budget discussion, but you cannot discuss that in course of questions.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: May I ask you, Sir, wheher we are prevented from asking questions which will elicit information regarding his careless conduct?

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot ask whether it is a fact that he was indifferent, negligent and all-such things. You cannot put questions like that.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, the life of a security prisoner is valuable.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another matter. You can discuss this matter threadbare on some other occasion, but this is question time which should be utilised for the purpose of eliciting facts only.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, I am trying to elicit the fact whether he was careless and negligent in his duties.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of inference from certain other facts. If you ask for facts, you can ask questions on them, but you cannot ask questions for opinion.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I am asking for facts only.

Mr. SPEAKER: Do that. I am always ready to allow that.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answers (*c*) and (*d*) to (*f*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Miss Uma Guha complained of uterine haemorrhage at the time of admission in the Medical College?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: At the time of the second admission—yes.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: At the time of the first admission?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have no information.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister please consider the desirability of enquiring whether Miss Uma Guha complained of uterine haemorrhage at the time of the first admission?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It will serve no useful purpose by making that enquiry now because she has received her treatment and she is no longer suffering from uterine trouble.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister please consider the desirability of enquiring into the matter not because she has already recovered but enquire into the delinquency of a Government official?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The question of delinquency does not arise in this case. When Col. Murray examined her, his considered opinion was that her admission into the Medical College Hospitals as an indoor patient was not necessary. He thought that if he could prescribe a course of treatment she could undergo that treatment in the hospitals as an outdoor patient. Subsequently, when her condition became acute, he revised his opinion. He accepted her as an indoor patient, treated her and she has now recovered.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Col. Murray was told that she was suffering from uterine haemorrhage?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether, for the purpose of future careful examination, Goverment think it desirable to enquire as to whether Miss Uma Guha complained of uterine haemorrhage at the time of her first admission?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No enquiry is necessary. I may inform the honourable member that the greatest possible care is taken of security prisoners with regard to medical attention and assistance.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: That is the burden of your song always.

Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, M.L.A., a security prisoner.

***129. Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether it is fact—

(*i*) that Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee, M.L.A., at present a security prisoner in the Rajshahi Central Jail, wrote a letter to the Deputy

Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Home (Jails) Department, on 7th June, 1944, requesting him to permit Dr. Banerjee to receive money and articles from Sjta. Alokana Devi and four others;

(*ii*) that Dr. Banerjee sent a reminder to the Deputy Secretary on 8th August, 1944, informing him that in the absence of any permission from the Government it was not being possible for him to receive any money or articles from outside and as a result he was suffering a good deal of difficulty; and

(*iii*) that the letter containing the necessary permission to receive money and articles was sent by the Deputy Secretary on 29th August, 1944, and was received by Dr. Banerjee on 9th September, 1944?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why out of five persons of different places mentioned in the letter of June 7, permission was given to receive money and articles from one person only?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Three of the persons are not suitable for having transactions with the security prisoner. Permission has been given in regard to the other two.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the disqualifications of these three persons that rendered them unsuitable for any transaction with Dr. Banerjee?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid, for security reasons I cannot answer that question.

Transfer of some Defence of India Rules prisoners to Delhi.

***130. Mr. SATYAPRIYA BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) if it is a fact that 35 persons arrested under the rule 129 of the Defence of India Rules were transferred to Delhi from different jails in Bengal before the expiry of the period of two months during the period between the 25th July and 6th September, 1943; and

(*ii*) whether such transfer was made with the knowledge and approval of the Hon'ble Minister?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for such large scale transfer from Bengal and subsequent repatriation thereto?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) if it is a fact that the Chief Commissioner of Delhi passed the order of detention under rule 26 at the instance of the Government of Bengal;

(*ii*) if it is a fact that the large scale transfer was resorted to in order to circumvent the judgment of the Calcutta High Court declaring the validating Ordinance invalid; and

(*iii*) what prevented the Government of Bengal from arresting and detaining the aforesaid persons under Regulation III of 1818?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether he was satisfied before ordering the transfer to Delhi that there would be satisfactory arrangement of Bengali diet for those persons in Delhi and that they would not be subjected to indignities and humiliation unknown in Bengal;

(*ii*) whether the security prisoner Sj. Taradas Bhattacharyya now detained at the Dum Dum Central Jail after repatriation was kept handcuffed for 24 hours in Lady Irwin Hospital during his stay there for 18 days;

(*iii*) whether the security prisoners were repatriated in a prison van which scarcely had any arrangements for ventilation;

(*iv*) whether 34 security prisoners were huddled together in 4 cages of the van measuring 4½ feet by 7½ feet each;

(*v*) whether during the journey lasting 3 days and nights there was no arrangement of water and sufficient food;

(*vi*) whether one Khan Musufzai suffered from blood poisoning on the way; and

(*vii*) whether the Hon'ble Minister proposes—

(1) to enquire into the facts stated above, and

(2) take suitable action thereon?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) and (*c*) (*i*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*)(*ii*) The transfer was necessitated by the fact that the Government of Bengal were at that time unable to exercise powers of detention under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules.

(*iii*) As the necessity of detention of the persons was primarily connected with the defence of British India orders under Regulation III of 1818 could appropriately have been passed only by the Central Government.

(*d*) (*i*) to (*vi*) I have not received any such complaints from the prisoners concerned.

(*vii*) No.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*b*) and (*c*) (*ii*), will Government be pleased to state whether competent legal opinion was consulted as to whether they did not make themselves liable to prosecution for having circumvented the order of the Calcutta High Court?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government of Bengal ascertained if these people committed any offence in Delhi for which they were detained under the order of the Chief Commissioner of Delhi?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I refer the honourable member to the reply already given so far as (*b*) and (*c*) (*ii*) are concerned. I have nothing further to add.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*c*) (*iii*), do I understand the Government to say that they cannot arrest any person in Bengal under Regulation III of 1818?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of opinion.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: No, Sir, I submit this is not a question of opinion. It is a question of fact.

Mr. SPEAKER: When you put a question of "can" or "cannot", it is purely a question of opinion.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: With reference to answer (*d*) (*i*) to (*vi*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any enquiry was made into the complaints after this question was received?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*c*) (*iii*), do I understand the Government to say that these persons constituted no menace to Bengal in particular but to India in the abstract?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have nothing further to add to what I have stated in reply to (*c*) (*iii*).

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of making an enquiry into the complaint suggested in the questions (*d*) (*i*) to (*vi*)?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already said that I am not aware whether an enquiry was held or not or whether an information was obtained.

Deaths caused by Railway accidents and Military vehicles.

***131. Dr. SANAULLAH:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) thana by thana how many people died by—

(*i*) railway accidents, and

(*ii*) by being run over by Military vehicles

in the district of Chittagong during the calendar year 1944, i.e., from the 1st of January, 1944, up to date; and

(*b*) what steps are being taken by the respective authorities to minimise such accidental deaths?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Statement showing the number of deaths by railway accidents, and by military vehicles, thana by thana, is laid on the Table.

(*b*) Sign boards have been put up at the entrance and exit of thickly populated villages along the road giving direction to control the speed limit of vehicles.

Statement referred to in reply to starred question No. 131 showing the number of deaths by railway accidents and by military vehicles, thana by thana, during the calendar year, 1944.

(1) Name of thana.	(2) Number of deaths by railway accidents.	(3) Number of deaths by military vehicles.
1. Kotwali	6	7
2. Double Moorings	3	1
3. Panchalaish	1	2
4. Hathazari	1	6
5. Boalkhali	Nil	3
6. Satkania	Nil	4
7. Patiya	4	5
8. Chakaria	Nil	8
9. Cox's Bazar	Nil	10
10. Ramu	Nil	12
11. Ukhia	Nil	1
12. Teknaf	Nil	2
13. Sitakund	2	Nil
Total ..	17	61

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURI: রেলওয়ে ও মোটর এক্সিডেণ্টের জন্য যে ৭৮ জন মারা গিয়াছে তাদের উত্তরাধিকারিগণকে কোন এলাউন্স দেওয়া হবে কি?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The question of compensation is under the consideration of Government.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURI: রেল ও মিলিটারী গাড়ীর এক্সিডেণ্টের দরুণ যে সকল লোক এ বৎসর মারা গিয়াছে তাহাদের ওয়ারিশগণকে গভর্ণমেণ্ট ক্ষতিপূরণ করবেন কি?

Mr. SPEAKER: আপনি বসুন।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURI: স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমার বেলা এ রকম হয় কেন? এখানে একটা জীবন-মরণ সমস্যার ব্যাপার! আমি এইমাত্র ত জিজ্ঞাসা করতে দাঁড়িয়েছি, আর এখনই আমাকে বসতে আদেশ করছেন।

Mr. SPEAKER: আচ্ছা আপনি বলুন।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURI: এতগুলি লোক মারা গেছে accidentএ অথচ গভর্ণমেণ্ট মিথ্যা কোরে দেখাচ্ছেন nil, nil; অথচ সেখানে কোন রেল লাইন নাই—যেমন সাতকানিয়া, চকলিয়া টেকনাফ এসব থানায় কোন রেল লাইন নাই। কাজেই সেখানে কোন রেলওয়ে accident হ'তে পারে না।

Mr. SPEAKER: আপনি তো কোন প্রশ্ন করলেন না, আপনি বসুন।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURI: আমি কোন মেম্বরসিপের জন্য লালায়িত নই, আমি দেশের কাজের জন্য লালায়িত। আমার ইচ্ছা হয় বসব, না হয় বসব না। আমাকে যদি সুযোগ না দেওয়া হয় তাহলে এখানে না আসাই ভাল ছিল।

Mr. SPEAKER: আপনার কথা বুঝতে পারা যায় না। আপনি প্রশ্ন করছেন কিন্তু না বুঝতে পারলে কি হবে।

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: So far as I understand him what he meant to say is that in the statement the word "nil" has been shown against the thanas Boalkhali, Satkania and others and he draws the attention of the House to the fact that as there is no railway line, there is no possibility of an accident, and wants to know why Government have put down the word "nil". Sir, that is no question at all. We have given the statement thana by thana. In those thanas no railway accidents took place and that is why the word "nil" has been shown against them, as we have got to show "nil" there.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURI: ডাক্তার সানাউল্লার প্রশ্নের মধ্যে কোন থানার উল্লেখ নাই, সেখানে আছে কতজন railway accident এবং কত motor accidentএ মারা গিয়াছে। যেখানে রেলওয়ে লাইন নাই, সেখানে railway accident হ'তে পারে না। কাজেই সেখানে nil nil দেখান মিথ্যা ছাড়া কি হ'তে পারে।

Mr. SPEAKER: আপনার সব কথা বুঝতে পারছি না।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURI: স্পীকার সাহেব! অনুগ্রহ কোরে questionটা দেখুন।

Mr. SPEAKER: আপনার প্রশ্ন কি আবার বলুন।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURI: সানাউল্লা সাহেবের questionএ আছে চট্টগ্রামে rail accidentএ কতজন লোক মারা গিয়াছে এবং motor byke accidentএ কতজন মারা গিয়াছে; সেখানে কোন থানার উল্লেখ নাই। যেখানে কোন রেল লাইন নাই সেখানে কোন রেল accident হওয়া সম্ভব নয়—

Mr. SPEAKER: খান বাহাদুর সাহেব, আপনি এ সমস্ত আলোচনা বাজেট discussionএর সময় করবেন।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURI: বাজেটের সময় অন্য ব্যাপারের আলোচনা চলবে। এ সম্বন্ধে বলার তখন সময়ই থাকবে না। আমার কোন লীডার নাই, আমি একা।

Mr. SPEAKER: আপনি এত সময় বাজে নষ্ট করলেন।

Disposal of cars, buses and trucks after disbandment of A.R.P. organisation.

*132. **Mr. SYED SAHABE ALAM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the A.R.P. organisation is being disbanded in Bengal?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government propose to take in disposing of the cars, buses and trucks requisitioned by Government for the purpose?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the previous owners of these vehicles will be given first option for the purchase of the car or vehicles formerly owned by them; and

(*ii*) if not, why not?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Orders have issued for the disbandment of the A. R. P. organisation in all areas except Calcutta, Howrah, Hooghly, 24-Parganas, Khargpur, Dacca, Narayanganj, Bhairab and A. R. P. areas in the Chittagong Division.

(*b*) The vehicles available in the disbanded areas will be disposed in accordance with the instructions laid down by Government of India in the matter. Serviceable cars, buses and lorries available in the disbanded areas will first be utilised in meeting the A.R.P. requirements of the Province and thereafter the needs of other Departments of Government. The balance, if any, will be offered for sale to the public through dealers.

(*c*) (*i*) If any vehicles become available for sale to the public, their previous owners will be given "first refusal".

(*ii*) Does not arise.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to explain if the previous owners will be offered the vehicles at the prices at which they were requisitioned?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, less certain percentage for depreciation for the use of the vehicles.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any profit made on the sale of vehicles to the public will be handed back to the owners from whom the cars were requisitioned?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That matter is under the consideration of Government, and the matter has been referred to the Government of India. As a matter of fact, some lorries disposed of by Government have fetched higher prices than those at which they were acquired by Government, and, therefore, the matter of paying surplus to the previous owners is under the consideration of the Government of India and their orders are being expected on the subject.

Demobilisation of A.R.P. Services.

*133. **Mr. SYED SAHABE ALAM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the A.R.P. organisation is proposed to be disbanded all over Bengal except Calcutta and industrial area?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps the Government propose to take to—

(*i*) find employment for the large number of young men who have done their duty in doing their "bit" for defence of their country and their people; and

(*ii*) give rewards or compensation or gratuity to these men?

(*c*) In what manner and by what time do Government propose to implement their declared policy and promise to give priority and preference to these men in appointments to substantive posts in Government service?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) No. Instructions have already issued for complete demobilisation of A.R.P. services in the Province by the 28th February, 1945, except in the following areas:—

(1) A.R.P. areas of Calcutta, Howrah, Hooghly, 24-Parganas and Khargpur.

(2) A.R.P. areas of Dacca, Narayanganj and Bhairab Bazar.

(3) A.R.P. areas in the Chittagong Division.

(*b*)(*i*). (1) The District Magistrates of areas from which A.R.P. has been disbanded have been asked to make every effort to absorb the personnel to be discharged in other branches of Government service.

(2) The Controllers of areas in which A.R.P. still exist have been asked to fill up their existing vacancies by the personnel to be discharged. The number of vacancies in the above areas has been brought to the notice of the Controllers of disbanded areas.

(3) All departments of this Government, certain officers of the Government of India, and the General Managers of the Railways, have been furnished with a list of personnel to be discharged and requested to give preference to the A.R.P. workers of disbanded areas and to condone age-limits in making appointments.

(4) The Controllers of disbanded areas have been instructed to prepare card indexes containing names, addresses, qualifications, statement of service rendered and employment desired in respect of personnel to be discharged.

These are being collected in the office of the Officer-in-charge, Post-Raid Information Service, Calcutta, which is, among other duties, serving as an employment exchange. They are being classified and forwarded to the appropriate employing authorities on the basis of the information available in the card indexes. This process is likely to facilitate the employment of A.R.P. workers of the disbanded areas. The results will be watched and personal contact, where necessary, will be established so as to ensure that the cases of A.R.P. personnel receive proper consideration of the employing authorities.

(5) Steps are also being taken to find out employment for them in—

(i) the Armed Forces—both technical and non-technical side,

(ii) Civil Pioneer Force, and

(iii) Police Force,

in all of which there are almost unlimited opportunities for recruitment.

(6) The question of training of suitable personnel as primary school teachers is under examination.

(7) The question of absorption of casualty service personnel both male and female in appropriate services under Public Health and Local Self-Government Department is also under examination.

(8) Some of them may also get the benefit of various schemes now under consideration of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee.

(*b*)(*ii*) No provision has been made for payment of compensation or rewards to the discharged A.R.P. personnel but they will be given, subject to certain conditions, gratuity equivalent to one month's pay for every completed year of service in A.R.P.

(*c*) It will appear from the reply to (*b*)(*i*) that the employing authorities have already been asked to give preference to A.R.P. workers in making appointments to vacancies under them. The result will be awaited and further steps, if necessary, will be taken to ensure that the policy is implemented.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government will accept responsibility for the provision of employment for the disbanded A. R. P. personnel?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government are attempting to get them absorbed in the various branches of services under Government, but they cannot undertake the entire responsibility for doing so.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government has prepared a comprehensive scheme for the absorption of all A.R.P. personnel in Government service or any other employment?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already indicated in my reply the various ways in which Government is attempting to absorb these A. R. P. workers.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government will consider the desirability of preparing a comprehensive scheme in place of this haphazard methods indicated in the reply?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir; if the honourable member so desires, the matter will be looked into.

Communal strength of contractors of Communications and Works Department.

*134. **Maulvi RAJIBUDDIN TARAFDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works (Irrigation) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many contractors (A) Muslims, (B) Hindus, (C) Marwaris, (D) Scheduled Castes and (E) others are on the lists up till the 31st October, 1944;

(*b*) how many of them are first class contractors—showing their names and Home districts; and

(*c*) whether it is a fact that the contractors have to deposit 10 per cent. of the contract money?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prasanna Pain): (*a*) On the 31st October, 1944, there were 366 Muslim and 593 non-Muslim contractors on the list. It is not known how many of the non-Muslim contractors are Hindus, Marwari, Scheduled Caste, etc.

(*b*) A list of first class contractors showing their names is appended herewith. Their Home districts are not known.

(*c*) Generally earnest money is not taken from contractors for works in the Irrigation Branch. But sometimes in executing urgent works required to be completed within a definite time, contractors are required to deposit certain amount of earnest money which is much less than 10 per cent. of the contract money. There is, however, no fixed percentage but a reasonable lump sum earnest money is required to be deposited.

A LIST OF THE FIRST CLASS CONTRACTORS SHOWING THEIR NAMES.

Muslim Contractors.

(1) Abdul Bari Khan.
(2) Messrs. Zahidi & Co.
(3) Messrs. Shalimar Engineering & Co.
(4) Messrs. Bengal Construction & Co.
(5) Messrs. Construction and Supplying Corporation.
(6) Maulvi Sheik Bahar Mondal.
(7) Messrs. Bengal Mutual Engineering Works.
(8) Messrs. N. Hossain & Co.

(9) Messrs. Asiatic Construction Co.
(10) Messrs. Kazi & Co.
(11) Messrs. K. G. Ahmed & Co.
(12) M. A. Baker.
(13) Messrs. A. Sobur & Co.
(14) Muslim India Co.
(15) Messrs. N. Zaman & Son.
(16) North Bengal Trading Syndicate.
(17) Maulvi Abdul Halim.

Non-Muslim Contractors.

(1) Messrs. S. K. Mitra & Co.
(2) Messrs. United Engineering & Co.
(3) Babu H. N. Mukherjee.
(4) Messrs. A. Pandit & Bros.
(5) Mr. K. C. Bhowmic.
(6) Babu Haladhar Biswas.
(7) Messrs. Narain Das Hari Vansh & Co.
(8) Messrs. Bengal & Assam Trading Co.
(9) Messrs. R. K. Roy & Son.
(10) Babu B. M. Sen.
(11) Rai Bahadur Seth Teomal.
(12) Messrs. P. C. Mitter & Co.
(13) Babu Lalit Mohan Ghose.
(14) Babu Gadadhar Bera.
(15) Babu D. B. Mukherjee.
(16) Seth Bepari Mal.
(17) Babu P. N. Ban.
(18) Babu B. C. Ghosh.
(19) Babu Kedar Nath Goria.
(20) Messrs. Jewan Ram Gangaram.
(21) Messrs. R. Mitter & Co.
(22) Babu Rajendra Nath Sen.
(23) Babu Monoranjan Nath.
(24) Messrs. India Construction Co., Ltd.
(25) Messrs. Regent Estates Ltd.

CONTRACTORS FOR SPECIAL WORKS AND REPAIRS OF DREDGERS

Non-Muslim Contractors.

(1) Messrs. Garden Reach Workshop, Ltd.
(2) Messrs. Hooghly Docking and Engineering.
(3) Messrs. Port Engineering Works.
(4) Messrs. Burn & Co., Ltd.
(5) Messrs. Kilburn & Co., Ltd.
(6) Messrs. Shalimar Works Ltd.
(7) Messrs. Babcock and Wilcox Ltd.
(8) Messrs. Stewarts Lloyds Ltd.
(9) Messrs. Macneil & Co.
(10) Messrs. A. L. Godden & Co.
(11) Messrs. T. G. Macarthey.
(12) Messrs. Jessop & Co.
(13) Messrs. Balmer Lawrie & Co.
(14) Messrs. Martin & Co.
(15) Messrs. Bird & Co.
(16) Messrs. Kumardhubi Engineering Works.
(17) Messrs. T. E. Thomson & Co.
(18) Messrs. Lyall Marshall & Co.
(19) Robert Machon & Co., Ltd.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether amongst the Muslim contractors Messrs. Shalimar Engineering & Co. is a registered firm?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: No.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us who are the partners of that firm?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: I want notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us who are the partners of Messrs. Bengal Construction & Co.

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: I want notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us when the following companies, namely, Messrs. Zahidi & Co., Messrs. Shalimar Engineering & Co., Messrs. Bengal Construction & Co., and Messrs. Construction and Supplying Corporation, came into existence?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: It is not available in the record that is now wit me and I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will it be possible for the Hon'b Minister to enlighten us if the Hon'ble Mr. Shahabuddin is in any wa interested in the firm of Messrs. Shalimar Engineering & Co.?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: No.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In Messrs. Bengal Constructio & Co.?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: No.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that he does n know the names of the partners of these firms how can he say whethe Mr. Shahabuddin is not a partner of Messrs. Shalimar Engineering & Co.

Mr. SPEAKER: As regards the names of partners he says that he do not know and as regards the question whether Mr. Shahabuddin is a partn the answer also is "No".

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I asked whether Mr. Shahabuddi was in any way interested in Messrs. Shalimar Engineering & Co. and if h does not know the names of the partners how can he say that Mr. Shah buddin is not a partner?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is only an inference but that is not a questio for eliciting information.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider th desirability of enquiring whether the Hon'ble Mr. Shahabuddin was any time or is now a partner of Messrs. Shalimar Engineering & Co. an Messrs. Bengal Construction & Co.?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: It is not necessary.

Mr. MIRZA ABDUL HAFIZ: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware th the Shalimar Engineering & Co has taken no contract from the Gover ment of Bengal?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: No.

Remarks of Public Accounts Committee of India Government in respect denial measures adopted in Bengal.

*135. **Mr. PRATUL CHANDRA GANGULI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'b Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to th remarks of the Public Accounts Committee of the Government India in regard to the denial measures adopted in Bengal wh Japanese invasion was apprehended;

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that the Bengal Government had acted as age of the Government of India in this matter of denial measures;

(*iii*) whether it is a fact that the Public Accounts Committee of th Government of India has remarked that the Bengal Governme had issued orders to the Treasury Officers to pay out money c demand to Government officers without the intervention of th Accountant-General; and

(*iv*) whether it is a fact that the Public Accounts Committee of th Government of India has remarked that the Bengal Governme had issued orders to the treasury officers to pay out money c demand to Government officers in some cases without the nece sary safeguard of giving to Treasury Officers specimen signatures or even the names of officers who are entitled to deman payment?

(*b*) If the answers to (*iii*) and (*iv*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that in this connection the Public Accounts Committee of the Government of India has clearly stated that they could not see any justification whatever for not taking elementary financial precautions;

(*ii*) that the sums in the neighbourhood of Rs.3 crores have been held in suspense by the Auditor-General pending audit in connection with the matter referred to in (*a*) and (*c*) (*i*); and

(*iii*) that the Public Accounts Committee of the Government of India has said that they would recommend that the Central Government should not accept the debits if further investigation raises doubts as to whether the money was actually spent for the purpose for which it was meant?

(*d*) If the answers to (*iii*), (*iv*) and (*c*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the steps, if any, taken to find out who were the persons responsible for this, and the result thereof?

MINISTER-IN-CHARGE of the Finance Department (the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra Goswami): (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) In the emergent conditions which prevailed, Collectors were authorised to exercise freely their existing powers under Treasury Rule 27 which runs as follows:—

"A Collector may, in circumstances of urgency, by an order in writing authorise and require a Treasury Officer to make a payment, not being a payment of pension, without complying with the provisions of these rules. In any such case Collector shall at once forward a copy of his order and a statement of the circumstances requiring it, and the Treasury Officer shall at once report the payment, to the Accountant-General."

But this authorisation did not in any sense relax the requisite subsisting safeguards for the purpose of tracing or verifying payments. Where such safeguards were not complied with, it was not because of any instructions given by Government but purely as a result of inadequate appreciation by local officers of the nature of safeguards required in individual cases.

(*c*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*d*) The matter is under examination.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*b*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government issued any circular to Collectors giving instructions in this respect?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: My answer is quite clear that Government in 1942 authorised the Collector to make use of Treasury rule 27 with all safeguards.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government will consider the desirability of placing a copy of this authorisation letter on the Library table?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: We cannot place such a letter before the House. I have already informed you and informed the honourable members through my reply (*d*) what the Government instructions exactly were.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*d*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when we may expect the result of the examination?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: The enquiry is still in progress and the audit is going on. Further, the Government of India have been kept informed of the progress of the examination.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Black-out in trains.

42. Babu SHYAMA PROSAD BARMAN: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department aware—

(*i*) that there are no arrangements for lights in the trains of the Bengal and Assam Railway; and

(*ii*) that this total black-out causes great inconveniences, hardship and loss of property to the passengers when boarding and leaving trains, which are invariably overcrowded?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether this black-out in the trains is due to the light restriction order of the Government?

(*c*) If so, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of making arrangement for shaded lights in the trains?

MINISTER IN CHARGE of COMMUNICATIONS and WORKS DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prasanna Pain): (*a*) (*i*) I am aware that in some of the trains running on the Bengal and Assam Railway system, there are no arrangements for lights in the compartments.

(*ii*) I am aware of the fact that it is causing inconvenience, hardship and sometimes loss of property of passengers travelling.

(*b*) No. It has been due to acute shortage of electric light bulbs and thefts of bulbs from trains. 1-Up, 2-Down, 3-Up and 4-Down mails on the broad gauge, have, however, been equipped with iron-clad anti-theft fittings and lights have been provided. Three of the broad gauge rakes working on 5-Up, 6-Down, 7-Up, 8-Down, 9-Up, and 10-Down Mails have also been fitted with these fittings and lamps. The work on the remaining rakes is in progress and fitting of further rakes will also be taken up.

(*c*) The Railway Administration informs me that they have made arrangements to manufacture iron-clad anti-theft fittings and stock is being equipped as rapidly as shop outturn and the supply of train lighting lamps permit, and I am asking them to expedite.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURI: Honourable Member অনুগ্রহ কোরে জানাবেন কি যে যুদ্ধের পূর্বে বাংলা দেশের পাবলিকের রেল গাড়ীতে চুরি সম্বন্ধে কোন allegations ছিল কি? যদিও গভর্ণমেণ্ট রিপ্লাইতে বলেছেন যে যুদ্ধ সুরু হওয়ার পর lightএর অভাবে রেল গাড়ীতে অন্ধকার হয়েছে--

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: আমি questionটা বুঝতে পারছি না।

Mr. SPEAKER: আমি বুঝেছি। প্রশ্ন হচ্ছে যুদ্ধের আগে কি এই রকম চুরি হত?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: না।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURI. এই ব্যাপারে public না military গণের দ্বারা এই চুরি হচ্ছে তা Government স্বীকার করেন কি?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: না আমি জানি না।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURI. যে কটা ট্রেণে লাইটের ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে তা কলিকাতা এবং নিকটবর্ত্তী অঞ্চলে; A. B. Ry. Zone এ লাইট দিবার ব্যবস্থা হবে কি? A. B. Ry.এর যে অংশ E. B. Ry.এর সঙ্গে যোগ হয়েছে সেখানে লাইটের কোন ব্যবস্থা নাই। সেখানে লাইট দিবার ব্যবস্থা হইবে কি?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: হাঁ তার বন্দোবস্ত হচ্ছে।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: এ-বি, রেলে একটিও হয় নাই, আর এখানে একশটা হয়ে গেল।

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: সেখানে আস্তে আস্তে হবে।

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: With reference to answer (*b*) where it is stated that the work on the remaining rakes is in progress and fitting of further rakes will also be taken up, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House when the work will be finished?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: It is not possible to say.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: In the case of upper classes, lights have been fitted up in the compartments. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House whether it is possible for third class and intermediate class compartments to be fitted up with lights?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: An attempt is being made to provide them.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House when the result of his attempt will be known to the people?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: As soon as fittings and lamps are available.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister definitely state whether any arrangements have been made for providing electric bulbs in the Darjeeling Mail, in the Assam Mail (Up) and in the Siliguri Passenger?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: They have already been provided.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that the mail and passenger trains which I have just stated have not been fitted with electrical bulbs yet?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: I would refer the honourable member to answer (*b*).

Appointment of clerks in the D.I.B.'s office.

43. Mr. MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of clerks appointed under the D.I.B.'s—

(1) on probation, and

(2) permanently,

after the enforcement of the Service Communal Ratio Rules; and

(*ii*) the number of them that are—

(1) Scheduled Castes,

(2) Caste Hindus, and

(3) Muslims?

MINISTER IN CHARGE of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*i*) (1) Seven.

(2) Two.

(*ii*)(1) Nil.

(2) One.

(3) Eight.

Condition of health of female security prisoners.

44. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the names of the female security prisoners now in the Presidency, Rajshahi, Dinajpur and other Jails of Bengal;

(*ii*) details of conditions of their health and ailments, if any, from which they are suffering; and

(*iii*) the arrangements that have been made for their diet and medical treatment?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that some of the female security prisoners are suffering from long continued diseases;

(*ii*) that they applied either for their medical treatment or for their release;

(*iii*) that Mrs. Leela Roy, M.A., a security prisoner detained in the Dinajpur Jail, is suffering from a serious disease for about half a year;

(*iv*) that in spite of the best efforts by and the medical aid given by the Jail Superintendent who is also Civil Surgeon, disease has not been diagnosed; and,

(*v*) that her life is in risk?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of releasing all the female security prisoners, specially those who are suffering from various ailments?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) A statement is placed on the Library Table.

(*b*) (*i*) and (*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) to (*v*) While in the Dinajpur Jail she had been suffering periodically from excessive hæmorrhage. As the local treatment did not respond to her ailments she was brought over to Calcutta in May, 1944, for thorough investigation and treatment. Her fibroid was successfully operated in the Medical College Hospitals, Calcutta. After operation she was retransferred to the Dinajpur Jail. On arrival there she complained of urinary troubles. Reference was made to the Medical College Hospitals, Calcutta, from which the report of the urine culture was received which showed *B. Coli* infection for which she is being given calcium mandalet and alkalies.

(*c*) The cases of all security prisoners including female prisoners are being reviewed once after six months. No security prisoner will be detained longer than is absolutely necessary on security grounds.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps does the Government propose to take in respect of female security prisoners, twelve of whom are suffering from more than one disease of a serious and complicated nature for the last few years?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have no such information, but security prisoners, male or female, suffering from any diseases receive medical attention, assistance and relief.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is it a fact that twelve of them are suffering from more diseases than one of a serious and complicated nature for a long time past?

Mr. SPEAKER: This question ought to have been asked first.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of it. I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Has the Hon'ble Minister himself gone through the statement laid on the Library table?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: How does the Hon'ble Minister say then that he does not know that they are suffering from more diseases than one of a serious and complicated nature?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has read the statement laid on the Library Table?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether twelve of them are suffering——

Mr. SPEAKER: You are thinking that you are cross-examining a witness in a court of law!

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: No, I am not. I am aware that I am in the Chamber. The statement laid on the Library table is not available to all the members and the public. He says that he does not know that the female security prisoners are suffering from more than one disease of a serious and complicated nature and he wants notice. So, I have asked him whether he has read the statement laid on the Library table and if so, whether he can say that twelve of them are suffering from various diseases of a serious and complicated nature for a long time past.

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot allow any more questions on that.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The honourable member first asked whether the female security prisoners were suffering from more than one disease of a serious and complicated nature. I said "I have no such information". If the honourable member has seen the statement, he will see——

Mr. SPEAKER: I have not allowed that question. Mr. Kundu, if you have any other questions to put, you may do so.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government will consider the desirability of setting up a Medical Board consisting of official and non-official medical experts to advise the Government as to whether some of these lady prisoners suffering from any serious diseases should not be released forthwith on the ground of health?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Whenever the condition of any prisoner becomes serious or precarious, certainly Government refer the case to a Medical Board and on their advice the prisoner is released sometimes on medical grounds. But in this particular case, most of the female security prisoners are suffering from throat trouble, tooth trouble or other troubles of a minor nature and not from any serious diseases as Mr. Kundu referred to in his question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how Miss Prova Mazumdar who was found on examination to have an arrested focus in the right lung is now doing?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: At present, she is not getting any temperature. Her condition has improved after her examination by a specialist.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what treatment she is undergoing?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am unable to give the details. But the ear, nose and throat specialist treated her for her ear trouble. She is free from that trouble now. As regards mal-nutrition, she has also not lost any weight recently.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what treatment is being given to Miss Kamal Das Gupta?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I refer the honourable member to the reply given by me 15 or 20 minutes ago.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what treatment is given to Miss Banalata Sen who is suffering from neurosis and pain in chest and spine?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: She is suffering from throat trouble and from no other disease.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: What treatment is being given to her?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: She was examined by the ear, nose and throat specialist who prescribed a regular course of treatment. I cannot give the details.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what treatment is given to Mrs. Helena Dutta who is suffering from fibrositis of the right suprascapular region and vicereptosis?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot give the details of the treatment, but she is being treated by a medical expert.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Miss Uma Guha who complained of urine trouble, uterine hæmorrhage and also complained of pain in her appendix region underwent an operation? How is she doing now?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, an operation was performed and her appendix has been removed. She has no pain so far as her appendix trouble is concerned.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: In view of the unsatisfactory and incomplete answers given about these security prisoners, will the Government yet consider the desirability of setting up a Medical Board consisting of official and non-official experts to examine them and to report to Government?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The answer is in the negative.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Miss Chaya Guha who was administered a course of auto-vaccine treatment due to her chronic throat troubles has improved?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: On account of her throat trouble, auto-vaccine was prepared from her throat phlegm and saliva. The whole course of treatment has been completed and she is now getting on well.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in the case of Miss Asha Roy who complained of pain in her back and abdomen any X-ray was taken?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice. From the report I don't find that any X-ray was taken. She was given bromo-valerian mixture for her pain in the back and abdomen.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In the case of Miss Suhasini Ganguli who is said to have been suffering from filarial infection, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if she has got over that and has been cured?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Miss Kiron Chakrabarty showed signs of tuberculosis when she was in Dinajpur jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer just now given, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire whether the Civil Surgeon in charge of the Dinajpur Jail reported that she was having night sweats, slow temperature and had lost weight?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: She used to have night sweats and slow rise of temperature and her weight which was 99 lbs. had come down to 94 lbs. She lost about 5 lbs. That is true, but there is no confirmation of the diagnosis that she was suffering from tubercular infection.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Has X-ray examination been taken in her case?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what treatment is being given to Miss Saila Sen who is said to be suffering from chronic dyspepsia and losing her weight gradually?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: She was suffering from dyspepsia. She is being given regular treatment and diet as suggested by the surgeon.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is she improving?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In case of Mrs. Labanyaprova Das Gupta who is suffering from cholelithiasis will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if she has been taken to the Medical College Hospital by this time?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when she was transferred from Dinajpur Jail to the Presidency Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Kundu, this is a question relating to a large number of security prisoners. If you go on putting questions like this and ask about details, he will necessarily answer in that way. The best thing for you would be to put fresh questions.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: All right, Sir.

Medical treatment of Sj. Karuna Mitter, a security prisoner.

45. Mr. NIHARENDU DUTTA MAZUMDAR: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that security prisoner Sj. Karuna Mitter at present in the Presidency Jail has been complaining for the last seven months or more of the following ailments, viz., progressive deafness, nose, throat, lung, intestinal and arthritic troubles, etc.;

(*ii*) that he has been asking for immediate arrangements for proper diagnostic examination and treatment by a specialist at Government expenditure, or to be allowed to arrange specialist treatment inside jail at his own cost by, amongst others, Dr. N. Banerji and Dr. S. Bhattacharjee;

(*iii*) that he was sent to the Medical College Hospital and to the School of Tropical Medicine as an outdoor patient for treatment by Drs. S. Roy, S. R. Chandra, A. K. Ghosh and Rew;

(*iv*) that he was advised an "immediate" operation for septic tonsils by Dr. S. Roy and Dr. S. R. Chandra;

(*v*) that a course of Milk injections was prescribed for him by Dr. Chandra; and

(*vi*) that he was advised another course of injections which was begun by Dr. Roy at the Tropical School, but was abruptly stopped by the jail authorities failing to send him to Tropical School as advised?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether arrangements for the aforementioned operation, as advised by Drs. S. Roy and Chandra, were made; and

(*ii*) whether the course of Milk injections and the medicine were administered to him in the Jail Hospital as prescribed and directed by the aforementioned specialists, Drs. Chandra and Roy?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in a written communication addressed to the Additional Secretary, Mr. Porter, Mr. Mitter informed Government of all relevant facts and circumstances concerning his ailments—

(*i*) complaining neglect of proper and systematic treatment by responsible authorities concerned; and

(*ii*) asking that his case might be placed before the Medical Board for report?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether Government have made any enquiries into the complaints contained in the aforementioned written communication of Mr. Mitter; and

(*ii*) whether Government are considering the desirability of—

(1) placing the case of Mr. Mitter before the Medical Board,

(2) his immediate admission into the Medical College Hospitals for completion of the courses of treatment including the operation as advised by the specialist mentioned above, and

(3) releasing him either (A) unconditionally, or (B) on any conditions on the ground of health to enable him to arrange his treatment on his own?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*)(*i*) and (*ii*) The prisoner, in a number of representations to Government, complained of various diseases but on examination by the jail medical officer no abnormality was detected in him except septic tonsils. He was subsequently admitted in the Medical College Hospitals for the operation of his tonsils but after a few days of stay he refused to continue his treatment there as he picked up some quarrel with his attending doctor. Ultimately he had to be admitted in the Campbell Medical School Hospitals where he had his tonsils removed. Even after the removal of his tonsils he has been complaining of various ailments and recently orders have been issued for X'ray examination of his shoulder, hip and spine. He has long been diagnosed as having been suffering from neurosis.

(*iii*) to (*v*), (*b*)(*i*), (*d*) and (*e*)(*i*) Yes.

(*a*) (*vi*) and (*b*)(*ii*) The prisoner himself refused to take the injections. Other treatments were administered to him in jail hospital.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*e*)(*ii*)(1) and (3) No.

(2) He is already having all necessary treatment and I refer the honourable member to my reply to (*a*) of the question.

Arrest under section 129, Defence of India Rules, and unconditional release of security prisoners.

46. Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of arrests under section 129, Defence of India Rules, and detention under the "Restriction and Detention Ordinance, No. 3 of 1944" in the year 1944; and

(*b*) the total number of unconditional release of security prisoners in the same year?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) Total number of arrests in the year 1944, under rule 129 of the Defence of India Rules, was 237, out of this 118 were detained in that year under Ordinance III of 1944.

(*b*) 65.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Regarding memorandum of Bengal Chatkal Mazdur Union.

***137. Mr. B. MUKHERJEE:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce, Labour and Industries Department aware—

(*i*) that, on the 4th July, 1943, a deputation of jute workers on behalf of the Bengal Chatkal Mazdur Union waited on him with a memorandum over the signature of 50,309 jute workers from various mills in the Calcutta Industrial area;

(*ii*) that the said memorandum contained the workers' demand for a Government Inquiry Committee to investigate into their terms and conditions of employment, and to make recommendations for adequate scales of dearness allowance;

(*iii*) that he assured the said deputation of sympathetic consideration of the workers' demands and necessary action thereon;

(*iv*) that no further action has been taken by him; and

(*v*) that, on the 25th October, 1944, the office-bearers of 23 Jute Workers' Union, with a total membership of 40,000 have jointly applied to his Department for adjudication into their principal demands such as adequate dearness allowance, increment of basic wages, proper service conditions?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the reason why the Government has hitherto taken no action on these repeated and representative representations; and

(*ii*) what action, if any, does the Government propose to take to prevent further deterioration in the condition of the jute workers?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: (*a*) (*i*) to (*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) The Labour Commissioner and his officers are in close touch with the workers and the employers and endeavour to have the grievances of workers redressed as they come to notice. Disputes in individual undertakings or in more than one undertaking with similar issues involved will be referred to adjudication as and when Government are satisfied of the need for settlement by adjudication.

(*v*) Yes. The application is dated 24th October, 1944, and is under consideration.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why it has taken such an inordinate time for Government to satisfy themselves of the need for settlement by adjudication?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Because we have to be satisfied that the matter requires adjudication.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: The application is dated July, 1943, and the deputation in connection therewith was in February, 1945. What has Government done in regard to this particular case? Has there been any adjudication order?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: No, Sir. I may refer the honourable member to my answer (*a*)(*iv*).

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether in this particular case Government have or have not been satisfied of the need for settlement by adjudication?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I think my honourable friend is confusing. This is not a particular case but a general case relating to the number of workers. I submit, Sir, that the question as to what has been done in a particular case does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government are aware that only last week there was a big rally of workers of many jute mills and they complained of the maladministration of the Labour Department and of the inordinate delay in listenng to their grievances?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is a general question, Sir. On the 4th July, 1943, the jute mill workers waited on the Hon'ble Minister in a deputation—

Mr. SPEAKER: You can ask a specific question. You can ask about incidents that have taken place.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to questions (*a*)(*iii*) and (*iv*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no action was taken in spite of the assurances held out to the deputation of July, 1943, in expediting settlement by adjudication?

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: I would again refer my honourable friend to my answer (*a*)(*iv*).

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government are aware of the existence of a great amount of discontent amongst the workers in and around Calcutta belonging to jute mills and other industrial concerns over the question of delay in disposal of their grievances and working of the machinery of conciliation?

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Shahabuddin, you need answer the first part of the question only.

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: Does the first part relate to the grievances of the workers so far as their conditions of service are concerned or as far as the working of the Department is concerned?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have asked whether Government are aware of the existence of great discontent amongst the labourers of jute mills and other industrial concerns in and around Calcutta for inordinate delay and maladministration of the Labour Department of the Government of Bengal in dealing with their complaints.

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot bring in maladministration. You can ask about the delay in disposal of cases by reference to a conciliation board.

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: That I have already answered.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Delay is one aspect of maladministration.

The Hon'ble Mr. K. SHAHABUDDIN: As far as delay is concerned, I would refer my honourable friend to answer (*a*)(*iv*). The Labour officers of Government are in close touch with the workers and whenever any individual or particular case is represented to them they take all possible steps for conciliation.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long ordinarily the officers of the Department wait in expectation of conciliation and the good grace of employers to enable them to come to a decision regarding reference for adjudication?

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think that question arises.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(*After adjournment*).

GOVERNMENT BILLS.

The Bengal Private Forests Bill, 1944.

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to present the unanimous report of the Select Committee on the Bengal Private Forests Bill, 1944.

The Calcutta Improvement (Howrah Amendment) Bill, 1944.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: Sir, I beg to present the Preliminary Report of the Select Committee on the Calcutta Improvement (Howrah Amendment) Bill, 1944.

Sir, we have not been able to finish our business yet. By a motion of the Assembly this Bill was referred to a Select Committee which was to submit its report by the 31st of January, 1945. We had four or five sittings but we have not been able to finish our work. We now want to extend the time, with the permission of Mr. Speaker, till the 30th April, 1945, instead of till the 31st March, 1945, as was originally given notice of.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, you have my permission.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: I beg also to move that the date for submission of the final report of the Select Committee on the Calcutta Improvement (Howrah Amendment) Bill, 1944, be extended till the 30th April, 1945.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, with reference to this motion we want to make a few observations. This Bill regarding the improvement of Howrah has been under contemplation for nearly quarter of a century and for nearly five long years in this House. We have been hammering various Governments to take up this question as one of the most important and urgent questions to relieve the distress of the people of Howrah. There is hardly any difference of opinion between different parties in the Legislature and, to crown all, this measure has been given the benedictions of no less a powerful organisation than the European party of this House and yet we fail to understand why Government is shilly-shallying in this matter. Have they entered into an unholy league with those capitalist

owners of *bustees* and lands who feel that their primary interests might be affected thereby? Have they been reticent or slow because they think that Howrah does not consist of a majority of Mussalman population? I demand an explanation, and we want to know also at what stage the progress now remains. It is simply ridiculous that a healthy measure of this character which was sponsored and supported by all sections of the House should remain still in the stage of a Select Committee. We thought that during the current session this Bill will pass through the Assembly at least and will get through the Council at as early a date as possible, but why is this inordinate delay? Sir, it is rumourned that the Government decided to consult some experts and, as often happens, the experts put forward certain suggestions which, though necessary in the interests of public health and self-governing institutions, the Government of the day is finding it difficult to accept—at least some of those suggestions. There also we want the Government to tell the House what their attitude is and why they find it necessary to delay the matter. Is it because the expert opinion is such that it will involve some expenditure by the Government or is it of such a nature that Government might be thinking it absurd or impossible of attainment within a reasonable length of time? In any case we want a fuller explanation with greater detail of the progress so far made in support of the statement and the announcement that Government would require more time with the further short-notice amendment that even the time up to 31st March, 1945, would not be sufficient and yet another month would have to be added thereto, that is, till the 30th April, 1945. All these show exterme reluctance on the part of Government to proceed with this legislation. Let Government frankly state their case; let us know whether Government is prepared to pursue this measure—a measure which Government most generously promised to pursue two years ago in reply to a certain cut motion of the European party when the then Minister in charge, Mr. Santosh Kumar Basu, gave the fullest assurance of proceeding with it at an immediate future. But that was two years ago. We want no further delay and we want to know by what maximum and latest time Government is expecting to put this measure actually into operation so far as the improvement of Howrah is concerned.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I assure the honourable member that Government is most anxious to proceed with this legislation. As a matter of fact it was Sir Henry Birkmyre who was very anxious for the improvement of Howrah and it was at his instance that this Bill has been taken up, and I can assure the House that Government is as anxious as anybody else for the passage of this Bill. We have given a preliminary report of the work that has been done in the Select Committee but there are some drafting difficulties which have got to be removed and I take the House into my confidence when I say that this has caused the delay. This is only a matter of legislative draft and with regard to the expert, that is, the Valuer of the Calcutta Improvement Trust, there is no difficulty that stands in our way. On account of the various engagements of the various members of the Select Committee and myself, it has not been possible to hold more meetings. We hope to finish the consideration of the Bill by the 30th of April. In the meantime, if we can finish it earlier, we will do so. As I have said in my preliminary report, we had our last meeting on the 30th January, 1945. After that we could not meet, but we hope we will be able to finish consideration of the Bill within the time asked for. I can assure the House that there is no obstruction on the part of anybody and this Bill will be placed before the House this session, if possible.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Is it positively the last time?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: I think so, provided the members attend.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad that the date for submission of the final report of the Select Committee on the Calcutta Improvement (Howrah Amendment) Bill, 1944, be extended till the 30th April, 1945, was then put and agreed to.

Amendments to the Bengal Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, in accordance with sub-section (*3*) of section 133 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 (IV of 1939), all rules made under the Act by the Provincial Government (*i*) shall be laid for not less than 14 days before the Provincal Legislature (both Chambers) as soon as possible after they are made, and (*ii*) shall be subject to such modifications as the Legislature may make during the session in which they are so laid.

Accordingly, amendments made to the Bengal Motor Vehicles Rules, 1940, by the Government of Bengal under the Act and published under notifications No. 388-T., dated the 30th January, 1945, No. 7273-T., dated the 5th December, 1944, No. 6515-T., dated the 8th November, 1944, No. 5688-T., dated the 10th October, 1944——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. So far as the motor vehicles rules made after the last session of the Assembly are concerned, I submit the honourable member is in order—rules made on the 30th January, 1945, and rules made on the 5th December, 1944, also—because probably they were not circulated before the last session, but, Sir, when we come to rules made in November, 1944, in October, 1944, and in August, 1943, I submit that these rules ought to have been placed before the Legislature before these were actually passed and adopted and given effect to. The Act requires the same. If they have not been done so, they remain subject to the same disability, if challenged in the court of law, as the Government have chosen to accept for them. It is not permissible for Government to place these rules before the Legislature at this stage because the provisions of the Act have already been contravened and by a post-mortem attempt Government cannot legalise or regularise the rules which have been already irregular and *ultra vires* so far as the provisions of the Act are concerned. I, therefore, submit that you would not permit the laying on the Table of such of the rules as were made long before the previous session of the Assembly. They must remain subject to the interpretation that the court of law would be pleased to give to them in case they are challenged in the court.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Half the objection of Dr. Sanyal will disappear after I have completed. He can only object to one notification but not to others.

Mr. SPEAKER: Please go on.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI:——And No. 2029-T., dated the 31st August, 1943, all these amendments are laid before the members of this House.

The amendment notified in August, 1943, was not placed before the Legislature earlier by reason of an oversight which is regretted. The amendments notified in October, November, and December, 1944, were not placed before the Legislature earlier because the Advocate-General has advised that the provisions of section 133(*3*) of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939, can be complied with only when both Chambers of a bicameral legislature are in simultaneous session.

From this it will appear that so far as amendments made in October, November and December are concerned, no infringement has been made of

the Motor Vehicles Rules of 1940 because both the Chambers of the Legislature were not in session and the Advocate-General has advised that both the Chambers must be in simultaneous session when these can be placed. Dr. Sanyal can only object to the notification made in October, 1943, which was not duly placed before the Legislature. That was through oversight and that is regretted. But he cannot object to the other notifications being placed before the Legislature now. That is the Advocate-General's opinion. I place all the notifications before the House.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, it is an astounding sort of opinion we have just listened to. I hope that you will kindly look into the necessary sections and give us the necessary direction so far as it lies in your power. Let the Court decide whatever it likes. If the Advocate-General has to contest on behalf of the Government on fees that he would earn there, let him press his point of view there.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Sir, I only wanted to point out that the opinion of the Advocate-General that unless the two Houses are in session simultaneously these rules need not be put before the Legislature seems to be just a way out for the illegality that has been committed. I do hope—I have not looked into it—that you will look into the matter and not allow an irregularity to be regularised in an illegal manner.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, may I request that you will kindly ask the Advocate-General to come and address the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not think it is necessary. I think this point was raised by Dr. Sanyal once——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Several times.

Mr. SPEAKER: And I had to make certain observations on it. That appears in the report—I think in Vol. LVII, No. I, page 425. I gave my opinion there and I stick to that opinion and that is this. Undoubtedly it was the duty of the Government to place it before the House as early as possible, but there has been an omission on the part of the Government in this respect. In respect of at least one that is admitted; as to the others I have not got the dates before me now—there might or might not have been omissions on the part of the Government. But the real point is this, whether I should disallow laying them before the House. I do not think I should do this. I allow these to be laid before the House subject to correction by the House. As to what its effect will be is not a matter for me here to say but it may come up for decision in courts. That is quite a different matter. So, I rule out the point of order raised by Dr. Sanyal and I allow all the amendments to be laid before the House.

The Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1945.

The Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea: Sir, I beg to introduce the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1945.

(Secretary then read the short title of the Bill).

The Hon'ble TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Sir, I beg to move that the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1945, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of:—

(1) Mr. Sadaruddin Ahmed,

(2) Mr. Md. Abul Fasl,

(3) Khan Bahadur Aulad Hossain Khan,

(4) Maulvi Abdul Hakim (Mymensingh),

(5) Haji Safiruddin Ahmed,

(6) Mr. Shyama Prosad Barman,
(7) Rai Sahib Jagat Chandra Mandal,
(8) Mr. Mia Abdul Hafiz,
(9) Mr. Radhanath Das,
(10) Mr. J. A. Powell,
(11) Maharaja Srishchandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar,
(12) Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal,
(13) Mr. Upendra Nath Barman, and
(14) The Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Revenue Department (the mover),

with instructions to submit their report within seven days from the date of the commencement of the next Session, the number of members forming the quorum being five.

Sir, in fact it is not a new Bill—

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. The Hon'ble Minister has not specified any date. There must be some time fixed to guide the members of the committee, and it would be irregular to keep that date indefinite. He has said "seven days after the beginning of the next session." The next session may or may not be held within a year.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, that is exactly my advice that he has followed. I have often found that application for extension of time comes in. The time expires in between two sessions and nothing can be done in between two sessions. Before my time the practice has been for the Speaker of the House to extend the time, but that practice I held to be absolutely irregular. To avoid this difficulty, I have advised him just now to put it in the way in which he has put it, viz., "seven days from the commencement of the next session."

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is indefinite.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is very definite from the point of view of this House in this sense that you can do anything you like. Otherwise there will be difficulty. I think there is nothing wrong in that, because even if the Committee cannot finish their labour within the time allotted by the House, they can come before the House for extension of time before the time granted by the House expires. I think this would be the best course.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May I submit, Sir, that this is a procedure which is only going to cover up the sins of the Government by a patchwork method. Government have been all along very very slow in regard to pursuing measures—sometimes very valuable measures and when they find that the work is not completed due to their delinquency mostly, they try to take undue advantage of the Office of the Speaker or of the Speaker himself to extend the time. If the House gives a definite time then the Government will have a definite direction to complete the work by that time. That is a healthy procedure which will keep the Government alert and this manner of giving a long rope to Government is only to hang the Government, not to hang the Bill. Either, Sir, there must be a specific time given, or let there be straightaway discussions in the House. We know that we have to get some direction, some idea as to the definite time by which the legislation is likely to come before the House. If you keep it indefinite till the next session or seven days from the commencement of the next session of the Assembly, there is hardly any chance of this measure coming up before the House. Therefore, I submit that it will be extremely irregular. There has never been such practice before. It is

a new innovation which even though through your generosity you may try to help Government to come out of their own delinquencies by this method, would not be consistent with the practice that we have been following or the practice followed in other Parliamentary legislatures.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is certainly quite open to the House to ask the Select Committee to finish their labour by a certain date, but this House certainly cannot take any steps for not finishing their labour by that date until the House meets again. If it is to be done within a particular session while the House is in session, I can understand that; but if it is going to be beyond that session, then certainly no indulgence will be shown to anybody by granting only seven days time for the submission of the Report. But I am not going to say this way or that way. That is the best course that struck me. If you insist that a particular date should be fixed, personally I have no objection. This course appears to me to be better and more reasonable, because that will avoid a lot of unnecessary troubles. There may be difficulties whether the Select Committee would sit after the expiry of that date. If the Committee do not finish their work, the question as to whether they can sit or not after that date will come up. I am speaking off-hand of the real difficulty. This must not be taken as any decision. To my mind the difficulty arises out of the fact that the Select Committees, as they have got to be formed under the rules, are practically in the hands of Government, but the Select Committees ought not to be in the hands of Government at all. The Select Committees should be committees in the hands of the House, but according to the present rule, we cannot do that, because the Chairman is the Minister-in-Charge. My own opinion is that of all the Committees of this House, the Deputy Speaker should be the proper person to be the Chairman. But that leads to the modification and amendment of the rules. As the rules now stand you can do whatever you like. If you insist that a definite date should be fixed, you can do it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why not the first day of the Session itself?

Mr. SPEAKER: The first day may be a particular date for definite purposes. Any way, I do not think there should be any further discussion about that.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Sir, I say "within seven days from the commencement of the next session or the 31st of July, 1945, whichever is earlier".

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, Dr. Sanyal has made a suggestion that if the matter be taken idefinitley on the basis of the sitting of the Legislature, the first day is much better, because if the Government wants to sidetrack the very important Bill which is hanging for more than seven years, if an earlier date is not fixed, Government will try to rush through the Select Committee within the seven days of the session. I feel that when the House is in session, the members of the Select Committee will not be able to do justice to the very important matters. If the first day of the sitting of the House is fixed, Government will have to take steps for meeting earlier and the members of the Select Committee will be in a better position to discuss the matter than if the matter is rushed through.

Mr. SPEAKER: I quite appreciate your remark, but the difficulty is that it may be that on the first day or during the recess I may die or some of the members may die and the House will be adjourned that very day.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Sir, as I have already stated, it is not a new Bill: a Bill of this nature was in the House for the last three years or more. It is known to the House that a committee of the legislature had to investigate the rights of the tenants of non-agricultural lands in the province and to make recommendations as to what should be done to protect the tenants. The committee circulated its report in May, 1941, and after careful consideration of the recommendations of the committee Government formulated their proposal in the shape of a Bill in September 1941. It was widely circulated by the Government for eliciting public opinion in order to save time and so there is no more any necessity for circulating the Bill over again for eliciting public opinion. In the present Bill the provisions of the previous temporary Bill have been modified and enlarged in the light of the experience gained by the actual working of the temporary Act for more than three years and the suggestions of various public bodies have also been taken into account. The main feature of the Bill as indicated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons I need not repeat. It is not necessary for me at this stage to explain in detail the provisions of the Bill as the Bill is proposed to be referred to a Select Committee where various sections of the House will get ample opportunity to discuss the merits of the Bill and suggest amendments. I hope my proposal will be accepted by the House.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURI: Sir, I beg to move by way of amendment that the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1945, be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 30th April, 1945.

আমি এই বিলটা জনমত সংগ্রহার্থে প্রচারের জন্য প্রস্তাব আনয়ন করিতেছি। এই বিলটা পূর্বে ও আনা হয়েছিল এবং বর্তমানেও সেইভাবে আইন করা হইতেছে যে আইনের ফলে অনেক শহরের এবং মিউনিসিপ্যাল এলাকার অনেক লোকের জমিজমার অনেক সত্বের পরিবর্তন হইবে, এবং মালিকের ও প্রজাস্বত্বের পরিবর্তন করা আমি নিতান্ত দরকারী মনে করি। যে কোন সংকাজ করিবার সময় তাহা প্রচার করিতে কাহারও আপত্তি হইতে পারে না। চুরি-ডাকাতী করিতে গেলে গোপনে গোপনে তাহার ব্যবস্থা করিতে হয়। এখানে চরি-ডাকাতির কিছুই নাই। আমি উপকার করিবার চেষ্টা করিতেছি অথবা অপকার করিবার চেষ্টা করিতেছি সে বিষয়ে জনমত সংগ্রহ করা ভাল। এই আইনটা বিলরূপে আনিবার পূর্বে আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করিতেছি এ সম্বন্ধে উপস্থিত মেম্বর মহোদয়গণের বক্তব্য স্মরণ করিবেন।

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: Sir, I beg to move that the following name be added to the personnel of the Select Committee proposed on the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1945, namely:—

Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhuri,
if the Government agrees to accept it.

Mr. ASIMUDDIN AHMED: Sir, I beg to move that the following name be added to the personnel of the Select Committee proposed on the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1945, namely:—

Mr. Ramizuddin Ahmad II.

আমি Select Committeeতে মিঃ রমিজুদ্দিন আহমদ সাহেবের নাম প্রস্তাব করি

Mr. SPEAKER: The consent of the honourable members has not been received in the Assembly office.

Mr. ASIMUDDIN AHMED: এই সিলেক্ট কমিটিতে সকল পার্টির মেম্বরের নাম দেখা যায়, কিন্তু কৃষক-প্রজা পার্টির কোন মেম্বর এই সিলেক্ট কমিটিতে নাই। এই বিলটা কৃষক-প্রজা আন্দোলনের একটি প্রধান বিষয়, সেইজন এ বিলের বিষয় বিবেচনার জন্য আমাদের একজন মেম্বর থাকা উচিত।

Mr. RAMIZUDDIN AHMAD: Sir, I have no objection to serve on the Select Committee.

Mr. SPEAKER: সেটা লিখে দিন।

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: They did not send any name in time and therefore no name was included from that party. However, the Hon'ble Minister is going to accept it.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA KUMAR: Sir, I beg to move that the following name be added to Select Committee proposed on the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1945, namely:—

Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu.

I propose his name not because he belongs to a particular group but because he was the member who moved a non-official Bill to this effect in 1939. I think he will be very helpful in the Select Committee and in all fairness the member who took trouble to bring in a non-official Bill on the same subject should be included in the personnel of the Select Committee.

Maharaja SRIS CHANDRA NANDY, of Cossimbazar: Sir, I have been with some pains trying to go through the printed report of the Enquiry Committee in order to find the reasons for putting this legislation on a permanent basis in the Statute Book. I regret to say that I am not at all convinced about its necessity. The Bill was in its present form for some time in this country and I do not know if proper statistics were taken of all cases of alleged hardship of tenants. As a matter of fact, the Transfer of Property Act which governs the tenancies was so long quite sufficient to deal with alleged discrepancies. If any change was necessary, some amendments in the Transfer of Property Act could serve the purpose and we do not think that for this purpose a comprehensive legislation like the one before the House was at all necessary. In the present Bill an attempt has been made to give certain rights to the tenancies which they never enjoyed. Unfortunately, the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge has not been able to convince us about the necessity of this legislation. If these tenancies exist for a number of years without eviction, it only argues that there is no need for such a legislation. I will understand cases where there has been exorbitant increase in rent but, Sir, in this particular matter it is not the landlord but the Government in the Khasmahal Department who is the biggest culprit. I have cases before me to show that in certain cases rent has been enhanced to more than 300 per cent. (Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: So much the better.) It is unfortunate that the poor landlords who are in a minority in the House are again being victimised. The classifications of tenancies which have been made in the Bill are also unfair. They need a good deal of alteration. Then, Sir, although the landlords are being deprived of their rights and temporary tenants are being given permanent rights, the tenants in their turn will have the advantage of transferring their land to the third party by paying a nominal transfer fee and I do not know if there will be in future another legislation doing away with this transfer fee as well, as was the case with the Bengal Tenancy Act. I strongly feel that the legislation which is being enacted is of an expropriatory character and should never be proceeded with.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to condemn the Government for having delayed this very healthy piece of legislation till doomsday. (A VOICE: Till doomsday?) Yes, because I do feel that the doom is already near. It was in 1939 that this House was pressed to consider the urgency of some legislation for the tenants residing in non-agricultural areas. That was a time when there was a wave of enthusiasm in all sections of the House to provide better rights and conditions for the tenantry, be they in agricultural part of the country or otherwise. Since then some magic wand had been at play to stay and to delay legislation regarding improvement in tenancy rights, not merely in the non-agricultural areas but also in the agricultural parts of the country. Time and again attempts have been made by non-official members to invite

the attention of Government towards the urgency of the case and we had pressed Government and prayed to them that some measure should have been adopted in this connection as early as possible. When the Hon'ble Sir B. P. Singh Roy was Member-in-Charge he assured that Government was applying their mind to this problem with all possible energy that Government could command. A committee was appointed which submitted its report in 1941. Shortly thereafter a draft measure also was placed before the House. We are surprised that it took Government four long years to bring that draft before this Legislature and we are still more surprised that even after the lapse of such a long time the draft that is placed before us is singularly lacking in a true and proper perspective of the problems, particularly problems relating to *bustees* and areas where larger sections of the poorer people live in Calcutta, Howrah and other big cities. Sir, it is common knowledge that in the city of Calcutta there are large *bustees* where poor tenants are harassed to the extreme extent by designing landlords, sometimes helped and nurtured by influential Corporation Councillors and also assisted by the Planning Committee of the Improvement Trust and other organisations. For a short while Government tried to give them some relief during the promulgation of an Ordinance whereby certain evictions and ejections were stayed. In Calcutta and Howrah the big land-holders at once began to create a row and one important effect thereafter is noticed that in the drafting of this Bill Howrah and Calcutta, not only Howrah and Calcutta, but all areas over which the Calcutta Suburban Police Act of 1886 may be applicable have been excluded. That means that Tollygunge, Garden Reach, Cossipore and so on have all been excluded. That is to say, this Bill does not contemplate giving relief to the poorer sections of the tenantry in Calcutta, Howrah, Tollygunge, Garden Reach, Cossipore and all those municipalities where thousands of poor people have to live under conditions which beggar description.

For some time Sir, the landlords' hands were stayed through an Ordinance and they were not in a position to carry on their wheels of oppression over the heads of the poor *bustee*-dwellers. But recently with the lapse of that Ordinance things have become intolerable. I know that in Calcutta itself there are thousands of tenants who are sought to be thrown out of their tenancies by the designs of landlords and their agents. The *bustee*-dwellers of Calcutta to-day are faced with a very serious problem and added to that the recent drive inaugurated at the instance of His Excellency the Governor for the cleaning of *bustees* has come as a handy weapon in the hands of the landlords.

Sir, I have before me a few instances of highhandedness and far from attempting to improve *bustees* and make them habitable either at the cost of the Corporation or the Government or the landlords attempts are being made to summarily eject the tenants and get big palatial building built thereon throwing the *bustee*-dwellers practically on the pavements of Calcutta. In my quarter of the town where I live while at Calcutta, near about No. 13, Punditia Road nearly 60 families have been given the peremptory notice to quit, by a ubiquitous Corporation Councillor who happens to be a powerful person now because he has got large financial interests in a bank and that bank is trying to have housing company associated with it as well, and this Bank, the Ballygunge Bank, having recently bought that *bustee* area at a nominal price, is trying to take advantage of the Governor's attempt to clean the *bustees* and the landlords have started clearing out all tenants of that place. They know that if they can do this without the slightest difficulty they can sell the land for 4 to 5 hundred per cent. of the price they paid for the same. This profiteering, this extortion, is going on under the very nose of Government and while we are now having before us the Non-Agricultural Tenancy

Bill it is surprising that Government is not contemplating to give necessary relief to a large section of people who are thus being harassed by wily and designing landlords in Calcutta and suburbs. The same thing is happening in the Belgatchia and Ultadanga *bustees*, and we have in our possession reports about the misdeeds of many of the *bustee*-cleaners who under the garb of cleaning the *bustees* are just going to have them cleaned up of the tenants for their own advantage.

This morning, Sir, one tenant from the Panditia *bustee* came to me with a letter addressed under registered cover to him demanding payment of all rent and arrears together with some alleged arrears in respect of Corporation rents on that land measuring 1 cotta and 8 ch. supposed to have been held by him and a demand notice for Rs. 209-12 has been sent to him under registered cover with acknowledgment due, by a lawyer. The tenant told me that, so far as he remembered, his monthly rent was only Rs. 2-8 and with arrears could not be anything more than Rs. 3 at the utmost. These poor tenants, some of whom are now working in small industrial organisations or as domestic male or maid-servants in the locality, would obviously get frightened when they are faced with a demand notice for Rs. 209 and odd and what they said was that there was litigation going on between 2 or 3 co-sharers of the previous landlord for which they fell into arrears. Although they were offering rent to one co-sharer or other they were not being given any rent receipts, the other co-sharers who did not take the money were always creating troubles and as a result there were some arrears. That is admitted, but it is surprising to see a tall order like this demanding payment at once of Rs. 209 or more. Having failed in their attempt to eject the tenants in an unholy way, this subterfuge has now been taken recourse to to compel some of the poor tenants to leave the land of their own accord, so that they might avoid this heavy or alleged heavy burden of rent.

This is not, Sir, with a view to improve Calcutta and to provide a large number of houses. Only recently in the Kalighat area, a *bustee* was similarly acquired by a few wealthy persons by forcibly ejecting and evicting a number of poor tenants and what has been built thereon? During a time when even one brick cannot be had nor an ounce of cement, lo! and behold! there grows up a stage, the Kalika Theatre, for the entertainment of the citizens of Calcutta. And how was this possible? It was possible only because behind the organisation or rather the main organisers were connected with the police and the Corporation. The police, Government and the Corporation have entered into an unholy pact and alliance to throw out persons, who have been living for nearly a quarter of a century and above, with a view to obtain unholy profits for themselves.

Sir, I demand that this Bill be so suitably modified as to include all classes of tenants living in the town areas including the township of Calcutta and suburbs or the Bill should be suitably modified and amended and then referred to a Select Committee.

In this connection, I also make an appeal. In view of the present state of affairs, taking advantage of the Governor's desire to improve the *bustees*, some persons are trying to throw out a large number of tenants from their homes. Government should come forward as early as possible with a suitable ordinance to stop these oppressions. Otherwise I dare say there will be extreme hardship leading to disorder and danger to public peace if Government persist in their present method of dogged callousness in regard to the *bustee*-dwellers. And, Sir, for the delectation of my honourable friends opposite I may point out that a large section of these *bustee*-dwellers are Muslims and many of them are probably supporters of the Muslim League Ministry. I demand, Sir, what have they done

for their own brethren who are thus being thrown out. Have any of the members on that side thought fit to visit the places and give them the assurance that is so much needed?

The other day, Sir, one woman living in a *bustee* near about my place came round and complained to me that because she touched a branch of the *Nim* tree within her compound a Ballygunge Bank *darwan* with ten others following him thereafter came and threatened her "you cannot touch the tree". That is the kind of thing that is happening, Sir, and the *bustee*-dwellers are frightened out of their wits.

I ask the Hon'ble Minister to see if he can include Calcutta, Howrah and such other places in and around Calcutta within the purview of this measure. Something immediate has also to be done and at least an Ordinance should be enacted to give these people protection against designing landlords.

With these words, Sir, I oppose reference to a Select Committee and I demand that the Bill be proceeded with here and now and made into law without any further delay.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: মিঃ স্পীকার, স্যার, এই Bill সম্পর্কে আলোচনা করতে গিয়ে ১৯৪৩ সালে আমি যে Calcutta Tenancy Bill এখানে উপস্থিত করিলাম তার কথা আজ আমার মনে আসছে। সেই বিল Select Committeeতে যায়। Select Committeeতে যে সমস্ত আলোচনা হয় তার ফলে এই Bill Calcutta Rent Control Orderএ পর্য্যবসিত হ'ল। এবং তার ফলে কলিকাতার প্রজাবৃন্দ একটু স্বস্তি পেল। তাদের ঘাড়ের উপর এখনও যে সমস্ত অত্যাচার, অনাচার, অবিচার চলেছে সেই সমস্ত কথা যখন মনে করি এবং তার পাশাপাশি এই Non-Agricultural Tenancy Billএর provisionএর সঙ্গে--কলিকাতা হাওড়া, টালিগঞ্জ ইত্যাদি স্থানসমূহকে বাদ দেওয়ার কথা যখন মনে পড়ে তখন মনে হয় যে, এর মধ্যে একটা জমিদারী clique vested interest ওতপ্রোত ভাবে জড়িত আছে। গত non-Agricultural Tenancy Billএর মধ্যে টালিগঞ্জ এবং অন্যান্য অঞ্চল এবং চব্বিশ-পরগণার যে সমস্ত অঞ্চল বিশেষভাবে কলিকাতার সঙ্গে সংশ্লিষ্ট সেগুলিকে বাদ দেওয়া হয়নি। এবার দেখা যাচ্ছে যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট খুব বুদ্ধির সঙ্গে কলিকাতা ও তাহার পারিপার্শ্বিক যে সমস্ত জায়গা, সেগুলিকে এই আইন থেকে বাদ দেওয়া মনস্থ করেছেন। তাঁদের সত্যিকারের উদ্দেশ্য কি? তাঁরা কি বলতে চান যে কলিকাতার যে সমস্ত গরীব প্রজাবৃন্দ আছে তারা, তাদের ন্যায্য অধিকার থেকে বঞ্চিত থাকবে? শুধু মফঃস্বলের প্রজাগণকে কোন রকম স্তোক-বাক্যে ভুলিয়ে রাখা যায় এই অভিপ্রায়ে বোধ হয় তাঁরা এই সমস্ত জায়গায়--সামান্য অদল বদল করে একটা বিল খাড়া করে দিতে চান এবং আমাদের বুঝিয়ে দিতে চান যে তাঁরা দেশবাসীর কত উপকার করলেন।

মিঃ স্পীকার, স্যার, আমি মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করছি যে কলিকাতার tenantদের অবস্থা কি সেটা একবার ভাল করে ভেবে দেখুন। কলিকাতার tenantরা আজ যে সমস্ত বাড়ীতে বৎসরের পর বৎসর ধরে ভাড়া দিয়ে রয়েছে আজ তাদের landlord কে তিন হাজার, চার হাজার, দশ হাজার করে টাকা সেলামী দিতে হচ্ছে কিন্তু এর কোন document বা কাগজপত্র নেই। এবং এই সেলামী, tenant দিতে না পারলে তাহাকে তাহার ভাড়াটিয়া বাড়ী হইতে অপসৃত করা হয়। সুতরাং দেখা যাচ্ছে যে বর্ত্তমান Rent Control Order এর ফলেতে তারা সত্যিকারের কোন উপকার পায়নি। গভর্ণমেণ্ট যদি এই প্রকারের কতকগুলি ভুয়ো আইন খাড়া করে মনে করেন যে তাঁরা প্রজাদের জন্য অনেক কিছু উপকার করলেন তা দেশবাসী বুঝবে না।

Transfer of property Actএর কথা উল্লেখ করে আমি কিছু বলতে চাই। সেটা একটা Pre-historic document. সেই সময় আমাদের জনসাধারণের দৃষ্টিশক্তি এক প্রকার ছিলই না। তখন জমিদার ছিলেন রাজা। জমিদারের বাড়ীতে হত্যা দেওয়া একটা দৈনন্দিন ব্যাপার ছিল। কিন্তু আজ, মানুষ যখন তার নিজের সত্তা উপলব্ধি করতে আরম্ভ করেছে, স্বাধীনভাবে চিন্তা করতে আরম্ভ করেছে তখন একটা pre-historic Transfer of Property Actএর অজুহাত তুলে যদি সরকার সমস্ত প্রজাবৃন্দকে দাবিয়ে রাখতে চান, সেটা প্রজাবৃন্দ কখনও সহ্য করবে না। তাদের যদি আমাদের সঙ্গে নিয়ে চলতে হয়, তাদের যদি সুখ, দুঃখ, শান্তি, সুবিধা, স্বাধীনতার কথা আমাদের মনে করা দরকার হয় তাহলে এদের জমিদারের কবল হ'তে স্বাধীন করতে হবে। Transfer of property Actএ provision আছে যে ১৫ দিনের noticeএ জমিদার যে কোন সময়, যে কোন প্রজাকে তার জমি হ'তে উঠিয়ে দিতে পারেন। এর চেয়ে জুলুম বোধ হয় পৃথিবীর আর কোথাও নেই। যে প্রজা বংশপরম্পরায় দুইশো বছর বাস

করছে তাকে জমীদার তুলে দেবেন ১৫ দিনের নোটিশ দিয়ে এটা কি? আমার মনে হয় এই বিল যদি গভর্ণমেণ্ট সত্যই Act রূপে পরিণত করতে চান তাহ'লে Non-Agricultural Tenancy Actসম্বন্ধে গতবার Select Committee যে report দিয়েছিল সেই report যথা সম্ভব বজায় রেখে কাজ করা তাঁদের পক্ষে কর্ত্তব্য। আর এই সাহস, উৎসাহ ও প্রেরণা যদি তাঁদের না থাকে তাহলে এই ভণ্ডামীর কোন প্রয়োজন নাই। এই ভণ্ডামী করে দেশবাসীর নিকট ১৯৪৫ সালে কোন পাত্তা পাবেন এ আশা করা তাঁদের পক্ষে নিরর্থক। এই প্রসঙ্গে বলতে চাই--কলিকাতা, হাওড়া এবং অন্যান্য মিউনিসিপ্যালিটি অঞ্চলে একটা temporary আইন জারি করেছেন, এবং তার ফলে এই সমস্ত অঞ্চলের প্রজাবৃন্দ কিছুটা সুবিধা পেয়েছেন। প্রজাবৃন্দের সুখ-সুবিধা যদি বর্ত্তমান বিলের মধ্যে include করা না হয়, তাহ'লে এই বিল করা বা না করা সমান। তাই আমি বলছি এই বিল Select Committeeতে গিয়ে ভালভাবে পরিবর্ত্তিত হয়ে আসে তো আসুক।

আমি মাননীয় লীগ মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলী ও গভর্ণমেণ্ট পার্টির মেম্বরগণকে পুনরায় জানাচ্ছি, যে কথা ডাঃ নলিনাক্ষ সান্যাল মহাশয় বলেছেন, যে কলিকাতার বস্তিতে যে সব লোক বাস করে তাদের শতকরা ৮৫ জন হচ্ছে মুসলমান। আপনাদের যদি মুসলমানদের প্রতি এতটুকু দরদ থাকে তাহলে অন্ততঃ সেই point of view থেকেও বস্তির অধিবাসিবৃন্দকে যেভাবে, যে কোন সময় উচ্ছেদ করে দেওয়া হচ্ছে, সে জমিদারই করুক আর যেই করুক তার প্রবল প্রতিবাদ ও প্রতিরোধ আপনাদের করা উচিত। আপনারা এটা করুন বা না করুন, আমরা বরাবরই করে আসছি এবং করবো। ১৯৪৩ সাল থেকে আমরা এই বিষয় নিয়ে আন্দোলন করে আসছি এবং ভবিষ্যতেও করবো, যতদিন পর্য্যন্ত না এর একটা বিহীত হয়। আপনারা যদি বর্ত্তমানে কিছু না করেন তার জন্য চিরকাল আপনারা মুসলমানদের নিকট দায়ী থাকবেন। কলিকাতা শহরকে improve করবার জন্য Calcutta Improvement Trust তৈরী হয়েছে। Calcuttaকে improve করা যানে, যত গরীব লোক বস্তিতে বাস করে তাদের সরিয়ে দিয়ে সেখানে Cinema, Bioscope, Theatre খোলা হচ্ছে। কিন্তু এই যে লোকগুলিকে উঠিয়ে দেওয়া হ'ল, তার কলকাতা ছেড়ে হাওড়ায় গেল বাস করতে কিন্তু সেখানেও আবার Howrah Improvement Trust সমাগত। তাদের বস্তি থেকে সরিয়ে দিয়ে সেখানে Cinema house খোলা হবে। তারা যাবে কোথায়? তারা "জাহান্নমে" যাক এই হচ্ছে সরকারের ইচ্ছা। এই যে Improvement Trust এর মধ্যে জড়িয়ে আছে vested interest Improvementএর অর্থ যদি এই হয় তাহ'লে সেইImprovement বাংলার জনসাধারণ চায় না। বাংলার জনসাধারণের যদি সত্যিকারের উপকার করতে চান, তাদের স্বার্থ রক্ষা করতে চান তা'হলে আরও এগিয়ে আসুন। এইভাবে একুল, ওকুল, দুইকুল রেখে চালাকি করে নামমাত্র একটা ভুয়ো বিল খাড়া করে দেশবাসীকে ভোলান চলবে না। এই বলে আমি আমার বক্তৃতা শেষ করলাম এবং আশা করি Select Committee কথাগুলি ভাবিয়া দেখিবেন।

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to say a few words in respect of this Bill. I introduced a Bill for the same purpose in the year 1939 or 1940. In my Bill I wanted to include the entire province. In this Bill only the mofussil districts will be included. I do not understand why the inconveniences of non-agricultural tenants in Calcutta and other places will be ignored. The necessity of such a Bill was felt for the following reasons. The landlord has the power to eject the non-agricultural tenant—almost all the non-agricultural tenants with the exception of a very few who pay a uniform rate of rent for a long time where the tenancy was transferable and heritable. But in other cases tenants were ejectable by notice and the landlords were also used to exact high rates of premium in case of transfer. These two oppressive acts on the part of the landlord necessitated a legislation of this nature. Now, these are factors which must be taken into consideration when a legislation of this nature is enacted. Now if the tenants in the mofassil will get relief from such oppressive acts of landlords, why should not the tenants in Calcutta and its suburbs get the same relief? I do not find any reason for excluding these areas. Sir, this legislation was long overdue and I know that the majority of the members supporting the Government are also in favour of such a legislation. I do not know why Government were allowed to delay such a legislation although a very large majority with the exception of a handful of members were in favour of such a legislation. I would remind honourable members of the responsibility and the duty that they owe in respect of

a legislation of this nature. Sir, you have not forgotten the opinions that were obtained over my Bill and the Bill that was sponsored by my friend, Maulvi Abdul Hakim of your party——

Mr. SPEAKER: Don't say "your party".

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sorry, not of your party but of the Government party. The provisions of the Bill are also far from satisfactory. As regards the provision for eviction the 4th class of tenants have not been given any protection. They under certain circumstances will be evicted. What I suggest is that there should be provision prohibiting eviction of all classes of tenants. Eviction should not be allowed in any case. Then, Sir, there is a provision for realising premiums on transfer. Sir, non-agricultural lands are situated mainly in the municipal and *bandar* areas. Now, the valuation of tenancies in mofussil municipal areas is growing every year gradually. What is it due to? It is due to the improvement done by the municipality at the municipality's own cost. By providing for premium on transfer you are going to give benefit to the landlords which they do not deserve because the valuation, as I submitted before, is being increased due to improvements made by municipalities' efforts. So, if any premium is to be realised on transfer some portion should go to the municipal fund and also to the District Board fund for whose efforts the valuation of tenancies is increasing, and not to the landlord. Sir, these are a few suggestions that I make now. I would request the members who will be in the Select Committee—all the members belonging to all parties and groups of this Assembly—to be very careful in modifying this Bill. There is ample scope for modification in the provisions of the draft Bill. The Bill should be thoroughly overhauled. It is not up to the demand which was expressed in the opinions obtained on my Bill and on the Bill sponsored by Maulvi Abdul Hakim. You also remember that there were many public meetings held and opinions expressed. I would also request you to refer to those opinions while considering the Bill in the Select Committee. With these few words, I would request the Hon'ble Minister also to carefully look into the provisions and enlarge the scope of the Bill to make it comprehensive and really beneficial to the non-agricultural tenants for whose interests this Bill has been sponsored.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the motion that has been moved by my friend, Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chaudhury—the motion for circulation of the Bill for eliciting public opinion. This Bill was really circulated for eliciting public opinion inasmuch as a similar Bill sponsored by my friend, Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu was circulated and public opinion obtained thereon, which was absolutely in favour of a Bill like this. So there is no sense in recirculating the Bill for eliciting public opinion. You are aware, Mr. Speaker, that there was a Committee appointed on the 1st August, 1938. We find from the report which was submitted by the Committee that it was appointed with certain objects in view, namely, to investigate into the rights of the tenants of non-agricultural lands in the Province and to make recommendations as to what should be done to protect the tenants from eviction at the sweet will of the landlords. That was the Committee appointed to investigate into that problem. So there is no point in referring to the Transfer of Property Act of 1882. The Transfer of Property Act however allows eviction at the will of the landlord in respect of tenants-at-will. Now who are the "tenants-at-will"? All tenants living in the non-agricultural areas or urban areas are considered as "tenants-at-will" under the Transfer of Property Act. It was to suggest safeguards against such eviction that the said Committee was appointed which reported in the month of May, 1941. So there is no reason or sense in referring to the provisions of the Transfer of Property Act. The Bill that has been introduced in the Assembly is not up to the mark and there is ample scope for improvement. As a matter

of fact my friend, Dr. Sanyal, has indicated how improvements can be made and Mr. Kundu also has already suggested some improvements that can be made in the Bill. We hope and trust that the Government will accept the suggestions that have been made by my friends, Dr. Sanyal and Mr. Kundu. Sir, we do want to refer the Bill to a Select Committee, and we do so in the hope that the suggestions made will be incorporated in the Bill. We feel that this Bill is long overdue. As I said the Committee appointed for this purpose reported in 1941. It is now March, 1945. No more time should be lost and we hope that the Bill will become the law of the land in the near future.

With these few words I oppose the motion for circulation moved by my friend, Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chaudhury.

Maulvi ABDUL WAHED : মাননীয় সভাপতি সাহেব! আমাদের কৃষক-প্রজাপার্টির দাবী হ'ল বাংলার চিরস্থায়ী বন্দোবস্তের এলাকায় যে সমস্ত প্রজা সহরে বা গ্রামে বাস করে সকলেরই জমির উপর সমান অধিকার স্থাপন করা। আজকে যে অকৃষিপ্রজাস্বত্ব বিল এখানে উপস্থাপিত করা হয়েছে চাল্লিশ প্রজাদের সামান্য স্বত্ব দেওয়ার উদ্দেশ্য নিয়ে সেই বিল থেকে বাংলার রাজধানী কলিকাতা সহরের যে দরিদ্র প্রজাবৃন্দ যারা চিরকাল খোলার বাড়ীতে বাস কোরে আসছে, যারা বস্তীওয়ালা নামে অভিহিত, যাদের সর্দারদের বস্তীর সর্দার বলা হয় এবং লীগ-মার্কা মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীর মন্ত্রিত্ব রক্ষার ব্যাপারে যখন লাঠি মারার প্রয়োজন হয় তখন সেই সমস্ত সর্দার বা বস্তীওয়ালাদের বড় আদর হয়--সেই সমস্ত বস্তীওয়ালাদের—গরীব মুসলমানেদের—দুর্দ্দশার কথা, তাদের দিনের পর দিন ভিটা-মাটিশূন্য হওয়ার কথা স্মরণ রাখা উচিত। সেই সব প্রজাদের কোন অধিকার না দিয়ে তাদের এই বিলের-এলাকা থেকে বঞ্চিত করা হচ্ছে। এর চেয়ে বড় অবিচার এবং অন্যায় আর হ'তে পারে না। আমি এই লীগ-মার্কা মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীকে স্মরণ করিয়ে দিতে চাই যে যেদিন মহম্মদ আলী পার্কে লীগের যে সভা হয়ে গেল—আসামের লাইন প্রথা এবং বড়পেটায় চাষী প্রজাদের উপর যে গুলী চলেছে তার প্রতিবাদে যে সভা হয়ে গেল--সেই সভাতে লীগের দল থেকে প্রস্তাব করা হয়েছে যাতে কলিকাতা ও পার্শ্ববর্ত্তী এলাকার দরিদ্র প্রজাদের এইভাবে উচ্ছেদ কোরে দিতে না পারে তার ব্যবস্থা করবার জন্য। আমি মন্ত্রী মহাশয়দের স্মরণ করিয়ে দিতে চাই যে কেবল নিজেদের স্বার্থ রক্ষার জন্য, নিজেদের গভর্ণমেণ্ট রক্ষার জন্য, এই সব দরিদ্র লোকের দ্বারে গিয়ে ধরণা দিলে চলবে না। তারা যাতে কলিকাতা শহরে বাস করতে পারে, টিকে থাকতে পারে এবং ভবিষ্যতে যাতে সেখানে গিয়ে ধরণা দিতে পারেন সেই ব্যবস্থা তাঁদের করা উচিত। তা নাহলে যেভাবে তাদের দিনের পর দিন ভিটা-মাটি শূন্যকরে বনে-জঙ্গলে তাড়িয়ে দেওয়া হচ্ছে তাতে কিছু দিন পরে আর ধরণা দেবার দরিদ্র প্রজা এই কলিকাতা সহরে থাকবে না। তখন তাঁদের কি দুর্দ্দশা হবে সেটা চিন্তা কোরে কলিকাতা সহর এবং পার্শ্ববর্ত্তী এলাকাকে এই আইনের গণ্ডীর ভিতর এনে যাতে সকলের সুবিধা হয় সেইভাবে আইন করতে অনুরোধ করছি।

Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, possibly this is the first time I am taking part in the debates in this session of the Assembly. I think, Sir, that this is a very important Bill and I fail to understand why Government has chosen that Calcutta and suburbs should be excluded from the operation of this Bill. Member after member has spoken about the ill-advised way in which the Bill is going to be pushed through in this House, and in that connection reference has been made about the *bustee* population of Calcutta. Everybody knows the difficulties and inconveniences of the *bustee* population of Calcutta and the hardships which the tenants of these *bustees* undergo under the landlords. I had occasion personally to be a councillor of the Calcutta Corporation sometime back and once had the honour of becoming the Chairman of the Roads and *Bustee* Committee. I had the privilege of going through the different *bustees* of Calcutta. I acquired some personal knowledge and I know also how the religious sentiments of the Muslim *bustee* population are being utilised by the League organisation, but when the question of amelioration of the condition of the *bustee* tenants—*bustees* where Muslim tenants preponderate—I fail to understand how men who are very oversealous in thinking about the welfare of the Muslim population cannot think in terms of betterment of the lot of the people of the *bustees*.

Sir, it reminds me of an occasion when I had to give some judgment in regard to the improvement of a *bustee*. Under the Calcutta Corporation there are rules by which the lot of the *bustees* can be improved and landlords can be compelled to improve the *bustees* in different ways. It may be asked why has the Calcutta Corporation lagged behind. Of late, His Excellency the Governor has visited some of these *bustees* and possibly the Chief Minister Sir Nazimuddin accompanied His Excellency the Governor and showed him round the condition of the *bustee* tenants some time back. A conference was held after that in Government House or in the Secretariat —I am not sure where—and the decision of the conference has been that the lot of these *bustees* should be improved. Well, Sir, after that some time has elapsed. The Bill is before the House. There was enough time for the Ministry to think over the provisions of the Bill, before the whole of Calcutta and the suburbs of Calcutta were advisedly excluded from the operation of the Bill even after His Excellency the Governor went round the *bustees* and saw with his own eyes the condition of the *bustee* tenants. I do not know, Sir, why the Ministry has not thought it fit that the *bustees* in Calcutta and other places should be included in the operation of the Bill. Government owes a duty to the people in this respect. The Bill is being referred to a Select Committee. If it is once referred to a Select Committee, the Select Committee, will go into only those provisions that are in the Bill itself. The Select Committee cannot say that Calcutta suburbs should be included in the Bill. I submit, Sir, either Government should withdraw this Bill or bring in another Bill in another shape, i.e., re-introduce it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I do not agree that the Select Committee's hand is tied down in that way.

Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Well, Sir, if it is not, if these words have put some wisdom in the members sitting over there they should state so clearly. When the question of representation comes, when the question of communalism comes, they come in their hundreds with flags and festoons, *jhanda* লে আও, চালাও, জিন্দাবাদ but what is the condition of these tenants? Nothing is done about them. I hope, Sir, that the Hon'ble Minister who is in charge of the Bill, though he is himself a landlord, will think hundred times and advise his brother colleagues that the Bill should be changed and presented in another shape so as to include Calcutta and suburbs with a view to improve the condition of the *bustee* tenants of Calcutta and suburbs. You know, Sir, how the *bustee* tenants live. They approached Government several times; they held meetings. Mr. Shaheed Suhrawardy presided over many meetings. He held out hopes at many meetings, but on the question of amelioration of the condition of the *bustee* tenants nothing is done. Therefore, I say, Sir, that if you ignore the case of these poor tenants, a serious conflict will ensue. I am not holding out any threat, but if you do not ameliorate the condition of the *bustee* tenants in Calcutta and suburbs I do not know what will happen. But I know something of Calcutta. The population, I mean, the people of Calcutta will be faced with a very grave crisis in the near future. Sir, member after member has spoken how the tenants have been thrown out of their houses: after they had built their houses by spending a lot of money they had been thrown out of their houses and asked to go away with bags and baggages. Hundreds of such cases of ejectment have been instituted in the Small Cause Court.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Shamsuddin, will you take more time?

Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Then the House should adjourn now for prayer.

(At this stage the House was accordingly adjourned for 15 minutes for prayer.)

(After adjournment.)

Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was mentioning certain facts about the ministerial activities. I am now coming to the final conclusion, and I shall now refer to some aspects of the Bill in a few words from the Statement of Objects and Reasons wherein it is stated.

"It is obvious, however, that the degree of protection cannot be the same for all classes of tenants and it has been considered necessary to make a distinction between tenancies which are—

(1) of unknown origin or which originated from before the Transfer of Property Act, 1882;

(2) held under a written lease for a specified period of not less than twelve years;

(3) held under a written lease but without specification of any period or without a written lease but originating from after the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, in either case the period of possession not being less than twelve years;

(4) held under a written lease or otherwise for a period of more than one year but less than twelve years.

It is proposed to confer permanent, heritable and transferable rights on all tenants coming under (1). Lessees under (2) should have a right of renewal on fair and equitable terms, but in case the lessor has allowed a *pucca* structure to be constructed on the land, the tenant should have the status of a permanent lessee irrespective of the period of occupation. Lessees under (3) should have a permanent heritable right. All holdings coming under (2) and (3) should be transferable on payment of a landlords' transfer fee. A perversion of user or a breach of a condition of the contract should be the only grounds on which a tenant under (1), (2) or (3) can be evicted. In case of tenants under (4) provision has been made for payment of compensation under certain circumstances in case of eviction. It is also proposed to provide for conversion of agricultural holdings within municipal areas into non-agricultural holdings.

The Bill has been drafted to provide for these protective rights and also to confer other incidental but necessary rights on the non-agricultural tenants of the different classes."

Sir, it seems to me, as I have mentioned, that from the very beginning this classification will force the people to go to court. Therefore the real object of the Bill will be frustrated and difficulties will be created in the way of tenants as well as landlords. I think that this Bill has been ill-conceived, but all the same what I want to propose is this. I do not know what the Ministry is going to do. This is a very emergent measure and, as I was submitting, only the other day His Excellency the Governor talked of the conditions of *bustees* in the city of Calcutta. This Bill deals with the non-agricultural holdings of the whole province with the exception of Calcutta and its suburbs. I would most respectfully ask the Ministry to remember that merely asking the Governor to undertake a tour and taking and showing him round the *bustees* will not improve the conditions of the *bustee* tenants. This is an occasion on which the Ministry can do a great deal if it has the real interests of the tenants of non-agricultural areas at heart. Therefore, I think that it would be very wise if the whole Bill is discussed and considered here and now without referring it to the Select Committee. We did so in the case of the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Bill. On this occasion also the present Bill can be discussed on the floor of the House. We are all unanimously of the opinion that the conditions of tenants of non-agricultural areas should improve. So, the Bill can be rushed through during this session and the particular provision for the inclusion of Calcutta and its suburbs can also be made in the Bill on the

floor on the House. I do not know what the Ministry intends to do. We shall know it presently from the reply of the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Bill. I do feel, Sir, that the real interests of the tenants will be served by this Bill if it is passed during this session. We are glad to note that the Hon'ble Chief Minister has evinced great interest in the conditions of *bustee* dwellers in Calcutta. I hope that the Bill will be taken up on the floor of the House and that the Bill with the necessary improvements will be passed during this session.

With these few words, I hope by now—not during the time I have delivered my speech, but during the time of the Governor's tour in Calcutta—wisdom has dawned on the Ministers and that they will see their way to get this Bill passed at an early date. I also hope that my friends on that side of the House not only of the League but also of the European group who are supporting the present Ministry will lend their whole-hearted support to this Bill and see that it is passed into law.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Sir, at the fag end of the day I propose to be brief. Of all the speakers, only Maharaja Srischandra Nandy of Cossimbazar has questioned the necessity of the Bill. My answer is quite simple. The very fact that the elected representatives of the people in this Assembly have not once or twice but thrice unanimously passed the temporary provisions Bill is proof positive that there is actual necessity for the Bill and that, I think, is a sufficient answer to the Maharaja of Cossimbazar's question as to the necessity of the Bill.

Sir, as regards the proposal for circulation by Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury, I would only say that the Committee which was appointed to enquire into the condition of tenants submitted its report so far back as 1939 and since 1941 a temporary Bill is in force and the Bill, when it was first drafted in 1941, was thoroughly circulated and public opinion was fully elicited. So, no useful purpose except shelving the Bill can be served by circulating the Bill once again.

Dr. Sanyal and others have practically confined their whole observations to the condition of the tenants in Calcutta proper and no speaker has said anything regarding the provisions of the Bill which is now before the House. It seems that the provisions of the Bill have the unanimous support of the House. There are some no doubt who want further improvements in the Bill. Sir, Government do not claim that this Bill is perfect. There may be room for further improvements and I am sure the Select Committee which has been proposed to be formed and which will consist of representatives of all parties in the House will be able to go through the Bill more carefully, more thoroughly and more fully and will be able to come out with a Bill which will be acceptable to all sections of the House.

Sir, it is true—and from my personal experience of the actual situation in the urban areas of the Presidency I can say—that a section of the public may suffer to some extent, but I am sure that those who are generally known as zemindars, and in this particular case may be called land-holders, will be able to rise equal to the occasion and must gladly sacrifice their interests for the welfare and prosperity of the general public.

Sir, the charge that the present Government is not sympathetic, sincere and earnest towards the welfare of the masses is farthest from the truth. The present Government has already promulgated various Ordinances to give relief to the general public. The Bengal Rent Control Order, the Calcutta Rent Control Order, the Hotels and Lodging Houses Control Order are but a few instances of such activities of the present Government.

Sir, regarding the condition of the Calcutta tenants, even with my limited experience I am convicted that it calls for immediate improvement. Government is already considering the condition of the Calcutta tenants and it has under contemplation a scheme to give them necessary relief as early as possible and as soon as possible. It is rather difficult for a non-lawyer

like myself to say off-hand whether the preamble of this Bill leaves ample scope to include Calcutta with all its complications and difficulties. Even if it is possible, still I would submit that I feel personally that a more comprehensive Bill is necessary to deal with the situation in Calcutta and I can assure the House that Government will do that as soon and as early as possible, but, Sir, to include Calcutta in this Bill will be a rather half-hearted way of dealing with Calcutta, and I feel that the provisions of this Bill alone will not be able to improve the condition of the Calcutta tenants as thoroughly and as properly as possible.

Regarding the condition of the *bustee* people, His Excellency the Governor and the present Government also have taken up the matter and I am sure a scheme will be evolved in no distant future to give immediate relief to the *bustee* people. The Calcutta situation is far more complicated and I would respectfully submit for the consideration of the House to allow the Government to bring forward a more comprehensive Bill dealing with the situation in Calcutta.

Sir, I am thankful to my friend Maulvi Abdul Wahed Bokainagari for giving his good wishes and blessings to the Bill. Both of my friends Mr. Atul Krishna Ghose and Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu have dealt more with the Calcutta situation than with the situation in the other urban areas of the province. I do not propose to enter into a detailed discussion about the situation in Calcutta as I have already said that even with my most limited experience of the situation in Calcutta I am myself fully convinced that the Calcutta situation requires immediate action.

Sir, I do not propose to make any further observation regarding the different proposals for including more names in the Select Committee. I would only submit that this Select Committee has been formed in full consultation with all the parties concerned and we have made every effort to make this Select Committee as representative as possible. A mere perusal of the list of names on the Select Committee will immediately convince any honourable member that it is fully representative and the names of members have been put in on the nomination or recommendation of the respective parties. The only party whose recommendation was not received by the time when the notice for the Select Committee was sent was the Krishak Proja Party, and I most gladly accept the motion of my friend Mr. Asimuddin Ahmed to include the name of Mr. Ramizuddin Ahmed. As regards the other names, I would respectfully request the movers of the motions not to press their motions, since this is an agreed list for all practical purposes.

Sir, I do not propose to take up any more time of the House. I am glad to find that the proposal as a whole has the unanimous support of the House and I hope the Select Committee after a close and careful consideration will be able to bring forward a Bill which will be more useful and more successful. Government will try to bring forward this Bill as soon as and as early as possible, but at the same time, Government think that this Bill should be considered most carefully and thoroughly. Therefore, I submit that the Select Committee will be a more appropriate and suitable body to discuss this Bill in all its aspects. It will be difficult to take up this Bill and to discuss it clause by clause in this very session. I can assure the House that during the next session of the Assembly Government will be able to bring forward this Bill through the Select Committee.

With these few observations I oppose all the amendments excepting No. 6.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1945, be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 30th April, 1945, was then put and lost.

Mr. SYED BADRUDDUJA: Sir, I beg leave to withdraw my motion.

The motion of Mr. Syed Badrudduja that the following name be added to the personnel of the Select Committee proposed, namely:—

Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Choudhury,

was then by leave of the House withdrawn.

The motion of Mr. Asimuddin Ahmed that the following name be added to the personnel of the Select Committee proposed, namely:—

Mr. Ramizuddin Ahmed,

was then put and agreed to.

The motion of Mr. Atul Chandra Kumar that the following name be added to the personnel of the Select Committee proposed, namely:—

Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu,

was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea as amended that the Bengal Non-Agricultural Tenancy Bill, 1945, be referred to a Select Committee consisting of:—

(1) Mr. Sadaruddin Ahmed,
(2) Mr. Md. Abul Fazl.
(3) Khan Bahadur Aulad Hossain Khan,
(4) Maulvi Abdul Hakim (Mymensingh),
(5) Haji Safiruddin Ahmed,
(6) Mr. Shyama Prosad Barman,
(7) Rai Sahib Jagat Chandra Mandal,
(8) Mr. Mia Abdul Hafiz,
(9) Mr. Radhanath Das,
(10) Mr. J. A. Powell,
(11) Maharaja Srischandra Nandy, of Cossimbazar,
(12) Mr. Sasanka Sekhar Sanyal,
(13) Mr. Upendra Nath Barman,
(14) Mr. Ramizuddin Ahmed, and
(15) the Hon'ble Minister-in-charge of the Revenue Department (the mover),

with instructions to submit their report within seven days from the commencement of the next session or the 31st of July, 1945, whichever is earlier,

was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-28 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Tuesday, the 6th March, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 6th March, 1945, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble MR. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 13 Hon'ble Ministers and 177 members.

Obituary.

Mr. SPEAKER: Ladies and gentlemen, before we proceed with the business of the House, it is my melancholy duty to refer to the death of Khan Bahadur Maulvi Abdul Karim, M.L.C., who was a Minister of the Government of Bengal under the present Government of India Act. Khan Bahadur Maulvi Abdul Karim died on the 1st of March, 1945, at the age of 69. He was a member of the Council of State and for many years Chairman of the Tippera District Board. He also served his country in various other capacities. He was respected by all for his honesty and for his outspoken sincerity.

Ladies and gentlemen, I feel it is the desire of the House to send a message of condolence to the bereaved family. I hope members will signify their assent by rising in their seats.

(Members rose in their seats.)

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen, Secretary will take necessary action.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

(Secretary called held over starred question No. 94 of the 28th February.)

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, this question may be taken up later today.

Mr. SPEAKER: There are 3 questions of the same kind.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There are 4 questions including another one of this kind. These questions may be taken up later in the day.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right.

Held over question No. 138 (starred) of 5th March.

Half-yearly reviews of cases of security prisoners for purpose of their release and further detention.

***138. Mr. PRATUL CHANDRA GANGULI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the cases of the security prisoners are reviewed every six months and fresh orders are served on them for further detention under Ordinance III of 1944?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of security prisoners that have been released as the result of such reviews?

(*c*) Is it a fact that not a single security prisoner has so far been released as the result of such reviews?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) who are the persons entrusted with the work of reviewing the cases of security prisoners; and

(*ii*) whether it is a fact that the reviewing authorities have never interviewed the security prisoners in order to ascertain their views before or after the passing of detention orders?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*)(*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(*f*) What is the procedure followed by the reviewing authorities before reaching a decision about further detention of security prisoners?

(*g*) Is it a fact that the Sub-Inspectors or sometimes Inspectors of Intelligence Department periodically come and interview with the security prisoners and ask them one or two questions at the time of six-monthly reviews and on their reports within a few days the orders for further detention are served?

(*h*) Is it a fact that the security prisoners are supplied with Notices (Communications) under section 7 of the Restriction and Detention Ordinance, 1944 (Ordnance III of 1944), containing the charges written in five lines such as supporting the August Resolution of the Congress or being a member of an organisation the objects of which included armed revolutions, for their answers as soon as possible?

(*i*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(1) that the security prisoners in their reply termed the charges as vague, stereotyped and indefinite, and asked for details so that they would be in a position to rebut them; and

(2) that the security prisoners in their reply requested the authorities to put them in open trial?

(*j*) Are the Government aware that in many cases orders for detention and notices containing charges and asking the detenu to reply to them as soon as possible are served simultaneously or at the interval of a few hours or sometimes orders for detention are served first and then the notices containing charges are given and replies thereto are asked for afterwards?

(*k*) If the answer to (*j*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(*l*) Are the Government considering the desirability of releasing the security prisoners?

(*m*) If the answer to (*l*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) and (*j*) Yes.

(*b*) 102.

(*c*) and (*d*) (*ii*) No.

(*d*) (*i*) His Excellency the Governor with the help of his Security Advisers.

(*e*) Does not arise.

(*f*) I am not prepared to furnish the information in public interest.

(*g*) Police Officers periodically interview with the security prisoners but extension orders are issued after considering all relevant materials against individual security prisoners including reports of such interviews.

(*h*) Grounds of order of detention are communicated to security prisoners as clearly as possible without disclosing facts which are considered against public interest to disclose.

(*i*) Some security prisoners have done so.

(*k*) The replies to the notices are considered in due course when the orders of detention are reviewed.

(*l*) and (*m*) No proposal for mass release of security prisoners is under consideration of Government but on scrutiny of each case individually Government release those whose continued detention is no longer considered absolutely necessary.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us what are the names of the Security Advisers of His Excellency the Governor?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: In the interest of public security I cannot disclose the names.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether His Excellency the Governor of Bengal has visited the security prisoners at any time?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*h*), will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of placing on the library table a specimen copy of the order which according to Government answer communicates all the grounds as clearly as possible?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not understand what the honourable member means by specimen copy?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Any copy.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The answer is in the negative.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Security Advisers of His Excellency the Governor ever visited the security prisoners?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the rank and status of the Security Advisers?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I refer the honourable member to what I stated earlier.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is it a fact that the Security Advisers belong to the executive or to the Police?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have nothing further to add.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who formulates the questionnaire before the interview is made?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: To what interview does the honourable member refer—the interview of the officers to determine whether the security prisoners have made any change in their opinion?

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Yes.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the substance of the questions which are put to the prisoners at the interview prior to their examination?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: My reply is the same as in (*f*).

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the same questions are put to the prisoners at the interview?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The same reply as mentioned in my reply (*f*).

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is the report of the interview put before the Hon'ble Minister?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The same reply as to (*f*).

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Security Advisers have any legal education and training?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Most certainly.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what points are proposed to be elucidated when the questions are put to the prisoners?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The same reply as to (*f*).

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any direction to the Ministry not to disclose any information which may be sought through questions?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There is no such direction.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why answers are not being given to this question?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: In the interest of the public safety and security.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he knows what is the substance of the questions that are put to the prisoners during the Police interview?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Are these answers framed with the knowledge and under the direction of the Hon'ble the Home Minister?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. If you would be pleased to look into the question and answer given and the supplementaries, it is clear that this matter was dealt with by the Minister in charge absolutely with a view to getting rid of the matter and there was no attitude of giving any answer to the questions. Can you be helpful in this matter, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is no point of order.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: My question is whether you can help us.

Mr. SPEAKER: The remedy is not in my hand; it is in your hands.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: I ask, Sir, whether the Speaker can be helpful in this connection.

Mr. SPEAKER: No, he cannot.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the security prisoners can take help of their legal advisers in answering questions and charges?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the security prisoners are allowed to cross-examine the Security Advisers?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer just now given to my question, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire into the matter and let this House know whether the security prisoners have got the right to take help of their legal advisers in this matter?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: In view of the answers given or not given, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of advising his department not to insult the prisoners by having granted them interviews which are mere humbug?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Regarding security prisoner Sj. Shiva Kumar Sinha and supply of Hindi newspaper to security prisoner Sardar Shiva Singh.

*139. **Mr. SATYAPRIYA BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the security prisoner Sj. Shiva Kumar Sinha who was arrested at Faridpur on the 27th June, 1942, is a native of Bihar and is now detained at Dum Dum Central Jail;

(*ii*) whether he made a representation for externment from Bengal to Bihar on 29th April, 1944, followed by reminders on 29th June, 1944, 20th July, 1944, and 9th September, 1944; and

(*iii*) whether he made a petition to the Chief Minister for externment from Bengal on 21st September, 1944?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is prepared to extern him; and if not, why not?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether security prisoner Sj. Sardar Shiva Singh, now detained at Dum Dum Central Jail, applied for the supply of the daily Hindi paper *Viswamitra* on 8th June, 1943, from the Presidency Jail; and

(*ii*) whether he wrote a letter to the present Hon'ble Minister in charge of Communications and Works Department on 26th October, 1944, regarding the matter referred to above?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, what action does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take in the matter?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter is under correspondence with the Bihar Government whose reply is awaited.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The matter is under consideration.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to question (*c*)(*i*), regarding the supply of a daily Hindi paper, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us how long has this matter been under the consideration of Government?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister remember that in reply to a question regarding the supply of a daily Hindi newspaper Government replied in the same strain, namely, that the matter was under consideration some time back?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not remember but as far as I remember in reply to another question it was stated that a Hindi vernacular daily was included in the approved list.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any of the dailies published in Calcutta are included in the list of approved daily newspapers?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already stated that formerly a weekly was allowed but recently a Hindi vernacular daily has been included but I cannot give the name of the paper.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that no Hindi daily paper published in Calcutta has yet been supplied to the Hindi-knowing security prisoners?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Previously it was not allowed but subsequently it was allowed but I cannot say what the name of the paper is and wherefrom it is published.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state from what time the security prisoners are trying to get Hindi dailies in the jails?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know from when they are trying to get one but they have been given one.

Appointment of special constables from Lalgola Union of Lalgola police-station.

*140. **Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Police) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many persons within Lalgola Union of the Lalgola police-station of the district of Murshidabad have recently been appointed special constables;

(*b*) the reasons for such appointment;

(*c*) the appointing authorities;

(*d*) the law under which such appointment was made;

(*e*) (*i*) whether the District Magistrate was consulted in the matter, and (*ii*) whether District Magistrate has approved; and

(*f*) whether objections have been made on behalf of public; if so, with what result?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) About 80 persons.

(*b*) For the maintenance of law and order and the protection of property.

(*c*) The Superintendent of Police, Murshidabad.

(*d*) Under Defence of India Rule 59B.

(*e*) No.

(*f*) Objections were raised and the order has since been withdrawn.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, with reference to answer (*a*), who are these persons and what are their ages?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It is very difficult to give their names and ages offhand.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: What are their occupations?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It is also very difficult to give the occupations of these 80 persons offhand.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why and under what circumstances the appointments were withdrawn?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Because objections were raised to the appointment of these persons and therefore Government reconsidered the matter.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is it not a fact that Government advised the local Superintendent of Police that the appointment was wrongly done and therefore the order was withdrawn?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The answer is in the affirmative.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us the minimum and maximum age of the persons appointed?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Age varied from 38 years which was the minimum to 60.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister know that there is nothing mentioned in rule 59B about the appointment of special constables for the maintenance of law and order?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know whether it is mentioned or not because I have not got a copy of the Defence of India Rules with me, but I presume there must be something mentioned.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enquire whether under rule 59B appointment of special constables cannot be made for the maintenance of law and order?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: As I have already said, I cannot answer that question because I have not got any copy of the Defence of India Rules before me.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Parliamentary Secretary of the Chief Minister is a special constable?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the District Magistrate was consulted before the appointment was made?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is it also not a fact that Government disapproved of such appointment without consulting the District Magistrate?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government upheld the objection raised and that is why this order was withdrawn.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government has given instruction to this particular Police Superintendent that such appointment should not be made in future?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is a matter of internal administration. I am afraid, I cannot reply to that.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the reasons for not consulting the District Magistrate?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know.

Present condition of health of security prisoners Sjs. Kedareswar Sen and Ramesh Chandra Acharya.

*141. **Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Special) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) where the following security prisoners, viz.,—

(1) Sj. Kedareswar Sen, and

(2) Sj. Ramesh Chandra Acharya have been kept;

(*ii*) what is the condition of their present health; and

(*iii*) whether they are suffering from various serious diseases?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*iii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps have been taken by the Government for their treatment?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of releasing them?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) Kedareswar Babu is now confined at Jalpaiguri Jail and Ramesh Babu at Presidency Jail.

(*ii*), (*iii*) and (*b*) *Babu Kedareswar Sen Gupta.*—He was suffering from cough with a slight evening rise of temperature, anorexia, constipation and flatulence. As a result of thorough examination and treatment these have all settled down and no serious disease can be detected at present.

Babu Ramesh Chandra Acharya.—He was suffering from duodenal ulcer for which he was examined by a Physician Specialist. He is now under proper treatment and is keeping well.

(*c*) No.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Babu Kedareswar Sen Gupta who according to the Government reply has no serious disease, has been reduced to 74 lbs. and cannot stir out of bed?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, but his weight is stationary at 74 lbs. and he is very much weak, but his health has improved since he went to the present jail.

Grievances of security prisoners in the Presidency Jail and their redress.

*142. **Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the security prisoners of the Presidency Jail have been complaining against the jail officials to the Superintendent of the Jail and other higher officers for disregarding and violating the provisions of the Bengal Security Prisoners Rules;

(*ii*) whether certain security prisoners (Sjs. Nagendra Sekhar Chakravarty, Nishitha Nath Kundu, M.L.A., Panchanan Bose, Haridas Ghosh, Niharendu Dutta-Majumdar, M.L.A., Sibnath Banerjee, M.L.A., Kedareswar Sen, Satin Sen and others have been continually pressing for the redress of the grievances for the last 9 months either on behalf of all security prisoners or on their own behalf;

(*iii*) whether several questions relating to maladministration and incompetence of jail officials were put in the last budget session of this House by Sjs. Nishitha Nath Kundu, M.L.A., Niharendu Dutt-Majumdar, M.L.A., and Sibnath Banerjee, M.L.A.;

(*iv*) whether the Inspector-General of Prisons met the representatives of security prisoners in Presidency Jail on the 22nd April, 1943;

(*v*) whether after hearing the details of grievances, the Inspector-General of Prisons recommended redress of some of them; and

(*vi*) what measures were actually recommended for by the Inspector-General of Prisons?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table, a copy of the Inspector-General's inspection report with the steps taken so far in connection with them?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of instituting a thorough enquiry into the grievances of securty prisoners in the Presidency Jail, and taking steps to remedy them?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*)(*i*) to (*iv*) Yes.

(*v*), (*vi*) and (*b*) The visit was an informal one, and as such no regular inspection report was submitted.

(*c*) The Home Minister is satisfied that the grievances have been redressed in so far as these could be reasonably removed without detriment to Jail discipline.

Assault on security prisoners in the hospital ward of the Rajshahi Jail.

***143. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there was assault and *lathi* charge on the security prisoners in the hospital ward of the Rajshahi Jail on the 29th December last;

(*b*) whether the following prisoners were hurt and injured—

(*i*) Sj. Priyaranjan Das Gupta,

(*ii*) Sj. Arun Banerjee,

(*iii*) Sj. Saral Kumar Guha, and

(*iv*) Sj. Bireswar Singha;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that after assault, the prisoners were taken by force to punishment cells and confined there;

(*d*) whether the prisoners named in clause (*b*)(*ii*), (*iii*) and (*iv*) have been suffering for a long time from serious type of illness and have considerably lost in weights;

(*e*) whether some of the Hon'ble Ministers were by letters and telegraphic messages informed about the incident requesting them to enquire into the matter and visit the jail;

(*f*) what steps, if any, have been taken in the matter; and

(*g*) whether it is a fact that during the period from the 25th April, 1943, till today there were three such assaults on the security prisoners, one each in the Presidency Jail, the Alipore Central Jail and the Rajshahi Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) and (*b*) The honourable member is referred to the reply to items Nos. (*a*)(*i*) and (*ii*) of starred question No. 114, by Mr. Pratul Chandra Ganguli, M.L.A., which was delivered on the 13th December, 1944.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) Only security prisoners Babus Arun Banerjee and Bireswar Singha have been suffering from chronic amœbiasis and asthma, respectively. They have since been transferred to the Presidency Jail for treatment by specialist.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) The Home Minister himself visited the Rajshahi Central Jail.

(*g*) Only two incidents, one in the Presidency Jail and the other in the Rajshahi Central Jail, took place since the 25th April, 1943.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that this copy of the minute of the Legislative Assembly has not been supplied to members and also not found in the Library, will the Hon'ble Minister please read out the entire reply given to starred question 114?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is not a supplementary question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: The difficulty is——

Mr. SPEAKER: I have understood your point. You have not got the publication.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: No, Sir, neither it is found in the Library. So it is very difficult to remember.

Mr. SPEAKER: This question must stand over.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Instead of holding it over I might read out the reply.

Mr. SPEAKER: That will not be proper.

Supply of khaddar to political prisoners within the scheduled price.

***144. Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the intention of the present Government is to encourage both cottage and big industries;

(*ii*) that *khaddar* as a cottage industry is produced in various parts of Bengal now;

(*iii*) that among the security prisoners there is a fair number who habitually put on *khaddar*; and

(*iv*) if so, whether Government propose to help them while they are in jail in their practice of putting on *khaddar*?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in spite of repeated requests to the jail authorities it is not, at times, being possible for them to get *khaddar* from the jail authorities?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the prices of *khaddar* compared to that of mill cloth being a little higher a request was made to the Inspector-General of Prisons during his recent visit to the Rajshahi Jail by the representatives of the political prisoners of that jail to the effect that in order to make it possible for the habitual *khadi* wearers to secure *khaddar* within the schedule price, the life of *khaddar* might be increased as it is done in the case of soap, hair oil, etc.?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*)(*i*) to (*iii*) Yes.

(*iv*) I refer the honourable member to note 2 of rule 8 of the Bengal Security Prisoners Rules wherein it has been stated that Government have no objection to the supply of *khaddar* clothes if available at about the same cost as jail-made ones.

(*b*) The difficulty is that in these days of emergency *khaddar* clothing of the variety demanded by the security prisoners is not often readily available.

(*c*) My information is that at the time of the inspection of the Rajshahi Central Jail by the Inspector-General of Prisons, Bengal, some security prisoners represented to him that the scale of *dhuties* might be reduced in order to provide for them *khaddar dhuties* the cost of which might be limited to the scheduled cost and that they were prepared to accept four *khaddar dhuties* in place of five standardised and approved variety of *dhuties*. Government have accordingly issued necessary orders on the following lines:—

(*i*) *khaddar* clothes when preferred by the security prisoners, can be supplied if available at the same cost as the standard mill-made or jail-made clothing.

(*ii*) If *khaddar* clothing chosen by the prisoner is more expensive either the security prisoners should pay the difference in cost themselves or agree in writing to accept fewer *khaddar* items than are permissive under the rules so that the total expenditure is kept below or equal to that involved in supplying the prescribed items of standard clothing to a security prisoner.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that *khaddar* clothes supplied by the friends and relatives of the prisoners lodged in Rajshahi Jail were not allowed to be given to them?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of it. I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is it a fact that the security prisoners who wanted to purchase *khadi* from the Khadi Pratisthan stall at Rajshahi were refused to do so by the jail authorities of the Rajshahi Central Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice. I would refer the honourable member to the reply given wherein it is stated that now it is permissible and if a better variety of cloth is required it is the option of the security prisoner to pay for the difference in cost or accept lesser number of clothes.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer given just now and the answer given in the printed reply, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to enquire whether the jail authorities at Rajshahi are not allowing either to purchase them from the Khadi Pratisthan or to have them being supplied by the friends and relations of the security prisoners from outside?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of it, but in the light of the Government orders recently passed, this question which the honourable member has suggested may be examined.

Health of Mr. Niharendu Dutta Mazumdar, M.L.A.

***145. Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Mr. Niharendu Dutta Mazumdar, M.L.A., under detention is suffering from multiple ailments and has recently undergone an operation; and

(*b*) whether he is considering the desirability of releasing him on medical grounds?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Mr. Dutta Mazumdar suffered from knee troubles and chronic tonsilitis with synovitis. He received treatment for his knee and his tonsilectomy was done in the Medical College Hospital. He is now keeping well.

(*b*) No.

Special travelling allowance to Government servants in addition to dearness allowance.

*146. **Mr. AMRITA LAL MANDAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Finance Department be pleased to state whether any special travelling allowance is admissible to Government servants who are in receipt of dearness allowance also?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the scale of such allowance;

(*ii*) whether such allowance can be drawn more than once in a calendar year;

(*iii*) what are the lower and upper limits of pay drawn by Government servants to whom such allowances are admissible; and

(*iv*) what are the reasons for not extending the concession to those who draw pay less than the lower limit referred to above?

MINISTER in charge of the FINANCE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tulsi Chandra Goswami): (*a*) Certain classes of Government servants have been permitted to draw travelling allowance in respect of journeys performed while proceeding on and returning from leave in India.

(*b*) (*i*) For an officer of the 1st grade, the maximum admissible is Rs.150 if he travels alone and Rs.300 if he is accompanied by his wife. For an officer of the 2nd grade the corresponding figures are Rs.75 and Rs.150.

(*ii*) No.

(*iii*) For a Government servant stationed in Calcutta, Howrah (Sadar), Alipore (Sadar) and the Darjeeling district, the lower limit of pay is Rs.265. For Government servants in the rest of Bengal this limit is Rs.163. There are no upper limits.

(*iv*) The bulk of the class of Government servants to whom the concession has not been extended, is locally recruited and does not ordinarily travel for the purpose of leave. This class of Government servants also carries less responsibility and therefore have less need to seek recuperation and change of environment.

Supplementary questions to starred question No. 359, dated the 31st May, 1944, regarding bus accidents in Murshidabad district.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister please state whether tenders were invited for this particular line?

(*b*) With reference to the accident of the 7th April, 1944, is the Hon'ble Minister aware that several deaths occurred following from the injuries received on that day?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister please state what is the report of the investigation made by the Subdivisional Officer regarding the cause of the accident of the 7th April, 1944?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that photographs were taken of the remnants of the motor bus and of the place of the accident, and investigation was asked for but nothing has been done as yet?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) The route was recommended by the Postal Department and was given to Tripuresh Pal on the basis of the recommendation. The Regional Transport Authority sanctioned the arrangement. No one else applied for the licence.

(*b*) Only one passenger died in the hospital a fortnight later as a result of an injury on the leg followed by septic pneumonia.

(*c*) The wheel of the bus fell into a ditch on the road and bumped.

(*d*) Photographs were taken. A case under sections 279/325/336, I.P.C., was started and investigation by the Police was taken up and completed. The case has not yet been disposed of.

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

(answers to which were laid on the table)

Grievances of security prisoners in Dacca Jail.

47. Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the security prisoners of the Ward No. 5 and those of the Mental Hospital area in the Dacca Central Jail are not allowed to meet, and have games and sports together;

(*ii*) that the Wards Nos. 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 of the Mental Hospital area, where security prisoners live, have bamboo-fencing walls of some of the above wards outside the jail and carries nauseating things and germs thus infecting the wards;

(*iii*) that a drain from outside the jail passes along the bamboo-fencing walls of some of the above wards outside the jail and carries nauseating things and germs thus infecting the wards; and

(*iv*) that the Pox Ward is situated very close to above Ward No. 15 only the above drain intervening between the two and also close to Wards Nos. 11, 12, and 13?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Sj. Suresh Chandra Banik, a security prisoner, while attacked with smallpox was unattended and handcuffed in a cell while dying?

(*c*) If the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor and the steps that have been taken to remove the grievances?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minster be further pleased to give a statement on the health of the following security prisoners:—

(1) Sj. Sasanka Bhowmik, (2) Md. Miafuruddin Ahmed, (3) Sj. Dinesh Dhum, (4) Sj. Mani Majumdar, (5) Sj. Ram Narain Adhikari, (6) Sj. Kumud Sil, (7) Sj. Mukunda Bose, (8) Sj. Brojen Sen, (9) Sj. Amalendu Ghosh, (10) Sj. Chitta Guha, (11) Sj. Kedar Chakravarty, (12) Sj. Nepal Dastidar, (13) Sj. Dhiren Choudhury, (14) Sj. Sailen Ghosh, (15) Sj. Birendra Chakravarty, (16) Sj. Manindra Dhali, (17) Sj. Narendra Bhowmik, (18) Sj. Mukunda Bhanja and (19) Dr. Indra Narain Sen Gupta.

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*)(*i*) At present all the security prisoners are confined in one area in the Mental Hospital Yards and there are no restrictions as regards their intermixing.

(*ii*) Wards Nos. 11, 12, 13 and 14 have bamboo mat walls with adequate ventilation, corrugated iron roofs and bamboo mat ceilings. The floors of these wards are brick on edge with cement pointing. Ward No. 15 is a *pucca* building with corrugated iron roof and bamboo mat ceiling.

(*iii*), (*iv*) and (*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) A statement is placed on the Library Table.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*a*)(*iii*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the measurement of these so-called well-ventilated wards, viz., 11, 12, 13 and 14, in the Dacca Jail where the security prisoners are lodged and how many windows each of them has?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is known to the Government that within less than 6 feet of these sheds a drain that carries filthy matter from a neighbouring cow-shed is always open and is never kept clean?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will Government consider the desirability of taking my quesiton on my personal testimony, having visited the jail many times as a non-official visitor——

Mr. SPEAKER: What is your question?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: My question is whether Government will consider the desirability of taking this question as notice. My personal testimony is——

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot give evidence here.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: From item No. 3 of the statement placed on the Library table it appears that Babu Dinesh Chandra Dhum died of bacillary dysentry. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the authorities enquired as to how Dinesh Babu got the infection?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice. Necessary enquiries must have been made regarding the death of the prisoner. I have not got the papers.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any steps were taken to find out whether this drain had anything to do with the infection?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: You will ask for notice on all questions, I know. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who treated Dinesh Babu?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there are any arrangements for treatment of these diseases in the Dacca Central Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, there are.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the qualifications of the doctor in charge?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: It does arise, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Certainly not. You cannot go into the details of qualifications of a doctor who is in charge.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: He may be a quack, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: You put your question to that effect.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is proper arrangement for treatment in that jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, there is arrangement and a properly qualified doctor is in charge of the hospital.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: May I know what are his qualifications?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot give the details of his qualifications, but he is a doctor.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is a graduate of the Calcutta Medical College or any other medical college?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot give the details.

Mr. SPEAKER: The whole trouble has arisen on account of the fact that I have allowed some questions relating to details; otherwise this difficulty would not have arisen.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Is he a registered medical doctor?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know whether he is registered, but I would say that only qualified doctors are attached to jail hospitals.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: From item No. 4 it appears that Babu Manindra Chandra Mazumdar is suffering from chronic asthma. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has been given proper treatment for asthma?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Is he improving?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Does the Government consider the desirability of transferring Babu Manindra Mazumdar to a dry climate suitable for asthma patients?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Without having the report of his present condition, it is not possible for me to make any promise?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: From item 7 it appears that Sj. Mukunda Bose has got a weak constitution. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is his present weight?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Sen, as I said yesterday or some other day, when questions are asked with regard to quite a lot of persons, you can hardly expect details to be supplied in respect of every one of them. The Hon'ble Minister has given certain information, and if you want you can put further questions on this information, and then you will have the proper answer. That is the best way of utilising time.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: I think I have elicited information which is worthwhile for the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another thing.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: From item 10 it appears that Sj. Chittaranjan Guha has had occasional attacks of amœbic colitis. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Sj. Chittaranjan Guha has been suffering from chronic colitis and insomnia, and he is suspected to have incipient T.B.?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: My information is that he is suffering from amoebic colitis. At present he is being given a course of treatment with emetine.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Is it a fact that Sj. Chittaranjan Guha has lost 29 lbs.?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Is it a fact that last year Sj. Chittaranjan Guha was transferred to the Medical College Hospital for treatment and while making some improvement, he was transferred back to the Dacca Jail in the midst of his treatment?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice. No security prisoner is taken away from the hospital in the midst of his treatment. His treatment must have been completed when he was transferred.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Sj. Chittaranjan Guha and his parents have made repeated requests to Government that he might again be transferred to the Medical College Hospital for treatment and those requests were cruelly turned down by the powers that be?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Does the Government consider the desirability of releasing Sj. Chittaranjan Guha on the ground of health?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No security prisoner is detained for a moment longer than considered to be absolutely necessary and when on medical grounds there is any justification for release, the security prisoners are released.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Government consider the desirability of home interning Sj. Chittaranjan Guha with his parents at Narayanganj which place suits his health?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid the answer is in the negative.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Government consider the desirability of transferring him to the Calcutta Medical College Hospital for treatment?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: If it is necessary to bring him to Calcutta for treatment, that may be done, if the treatment cannot be conducted in Dacca.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: It appears from item No. 18 that Sj. Mukunda Bhanja, as an after-effect of pleurisy, complained of pain in his chest. Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has been X'rayed for proper diagnosis of the pain?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice. My information is that he had suffered from pleurisy, but afterwards recovered from that attack. Though he is feeling a pain in his chest, there is no evidence of any pulmonary affection. His general health is good.

Grant of family allowance to Babu Kanai Lal Banerjee, a security prisoner.

48. Mr. PRATUL CHANDRA GANGULI: (*a*) With reference to the reply to starred question No. 223 on the 4th April, 1944, put by Mr. Haripada Chattopadhyay regarding petitions for family allowance by certain security prisoners to the effect that Babu Kanai Lal Banerjee was released before any

action could be taken on his petition, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Babu Kanai Lal Banerjee wrote to the Hon'ble Chief Minister on 8th April, 1944, stating that the Hon'ble Minister's information about his release was wrong and that he was still in jail as security prisoner and in the same letter he prayed for family allowance for his wife?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for not replying to his letter, dated the 8th April, 1944?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that he has not yet received any reply to his petition for family allowance, dated the 13th January, 1943, and its reminders, dated the 19th August, 1943, and 18th January, 1944?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Babu Kanai Lal Banerjee is still a security prisoner detained in jail?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government is considering the desirability of releasing him from jail?

(*g*) If the answer to (*f*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

(*h*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Babu Kanai Lal Banerjee is a married man and has to support his wife?

(*i*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of granting family allowance to Babu Kanai Lal Banerjee?

(*j*) If the answer to (*i*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons thereof?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) Yes, but the letter is dated the 2nd February, 1944.

(*b*) As the wife of the security prisoner was informed of the order passed in the case it was not considered necessary to reply to his letter separately.

(*c*) and (*d*) The honourable member is referred to my reply regarding (*b*) above.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) Orders for his conditional release were issued in November, 1943, but as his father refused to furnish a bond, they were cancelled.

(*h*), (*i*) and (*j*) Yes. But as the security prisoner did not earn anything before his arrest and as his father is a very influential zamindar of Joynagore it was not considered necessary to sanction any family allowance in this case.

Special Board of Visitors, Rajshahi Central Jail.

49. Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the names of the members of the Special Board of Visitors appointed for visiting the security prisoners lodged in the Rajshahi Central Jail;

(*ii*) the dates when the Board visited the jail in 1944;

(*iii*) the names of the members who individually visited the security prisoners and the dates of their visits in the year of 1944; and

(*iv*) whether there is any fixed period within which at least once the Special Board should visit the security prisoners?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN:

(*i*) Official visitors—

(1) Commissioner, Rajshahi Division

(2) District Magistrate, Rajshahi.

Non-official visitors—

(1) Rai Dharani Mohan Maitra Bahadur.

(2) Babu Haripada Chakravarty.

(3) Maulvi Abdul Hamid.

(*ii*) 17th March, 1944, 15th June, 1944, 4th October, 1944, and 22nd December, 1944.

(*iii*) (1) Rai Dharani Mohan Maitra Bahadur—1st January, 1944,

(2) Babu Haripada Chakravarty—1st January, 1944.

(*iv*) Previously the District Magistrates and the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Calcutta, were required under the rule to visit their respective jails once a quarter, and submit full reports of their visits to Government, but the rule has since been amended and under the amended rule, the District Magistrate or the Commissioner of Police, Calcutta, as the case may be, in addition to convening a meeting of the Board of Visitors as a whole at least once every quarter, shall prescribe a roster for monthly individual visits by the non-official members of the Special Board so as to give each non-official visitor his due turn.

Assault on a security prisoner in the Presidency Jail.

50. Mr. NIKUNJA BEHARI MAITI: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the date of arrest of Sj. Dharanath Bhattacharyya, a security prisoner, Presidency Jail, Calcutta;

(*ii*) his present age;

(*iii*) whether he was assaulted on the head on the 25th April, 1943, while walking in the afternoon at the jail premises;

(*iv*) whether the assault was made with a bamboo club;

(*v*) the reason for the assault;

(*vi*) how many days he was in the Jail Hospital after that assault;

(*vii*) whether he wrote to the Additional Secretary, Home Department, requesting him to make proper arrangements to remedy the effects of the shock on his system—specially on the head and in the lungs;

(*viii*) whether in reply he was informed on the 30th September, 1943, that he would not be released;

(*ix*) whether Dharanath Babu in reply to it on the 10th October, 1943, informed him that he did not request for his release, but for proper treatment; and

(*x*) whether his letter of the 10th October, 1943, has been replied to?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of giving him facilities for *kabiraji* treatment?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*)(*i*) The prisoner was arrested on the 11th October, 1942, but he is now detained in the Dum Dum Central Jail.

(*ii*) 62 years.

(*iii*) and (*v*) This prisoner was one of the nine security prisoners who received injuries during a fracas between the ordinary and security prisoners of the Presidency Jail, on the 25th April, 1943.

(*iv*) Yes.

(*vi*) Thirteen days.

(*vii*) to (*x*) Yes.

(*b*) My information is that the prisoner has long been cured of his injuries and requires no further treatment at present.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of ordinary prisoners who took part in the assault?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that each one of these ordinary prisoners numbering about 100 had in their hands cane sticks and bamboo *lathis*?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot say whether each one of them had bamboo *lathis* and cane sticks in their hands but some of them had.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how these prisoners secured these cane-sticks and bamboo *lathis* within the jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Dropped from the cloud!

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to enquire into the matter as to how these bamboo *lathis* and cane-sticks were available to them in the jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The matter was enquired into thoroughly. Mr. Hicks enquired into the matter and submitted a report. There is no necessity for any further enquiry.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enlighten us how bamboo *lathis* and cane-sticks were available?

Mr. SPEAKER: If I understood him aright, he wanted notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the jail rule that no person can possess any stick or *lathi*——

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already said that he requires notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any departmental steps or disciplinary action will be taken on those officers who were negligent in their duties as a result of which these ordinary prisoners possessed these bamboo *lathis* and cane-sticks?

Mr. SPEAKER: You are assuming something, and then there is an inference. I cannot allow that question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Sj. Dharanath Bhattacharyya received injuries on his head?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes; the prisoner was one of the nine prisoners who received injuries.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: On his head?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot say where he received injury.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: With reference to question (*b*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if kabiraji treatment may be made available to this prisoner?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The injury from which he suffered has been already treated and attended to. There is no reason for any further treatment now.

Medical treatment of certain security prisoners.

51. Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the lady security prisoners, viz.,—
(1) Miss Saila Sen, B.A., B.T., and
(2) Mrs. Labanya Das Gupta, are detained in the Dinajpur Jail;

(*ii*) that (1) Miss Sen is suffering from pain in the stomach and acute type of bowel complaint, and (2) Mrs. Das Gupta from gastric ulcer; and

(*iii*) that in spite of the best efforts on the part of medical authorities there in the Dinajpur Jail, both of them are having relapses off and on?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Government consider it desirable to release them soon for affording better facilities for their medical treatment?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the steps he proposes to take for their better medical treatment?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) While in the Dinajpur Jail, security prisoners Miss Saila Bala Sen and Mrs. Labanya Das Gupta had been suffering from various ailments and local treatment did not produce any appreciable result. They were accordingly transferred to the Presidency Jail where they have since been examined by the Physician Specialist who diagnosed the case of Miss Sen as dyspepsia and that of Mrs. Das Gupta as cholecystitis and cholelithiasis. Miss Sen has been getting medicines and extra diet as suggested by the Physician Specialist and she has improved in her health. The question of removal of Mrs. Das Gupta to the Medical College Hospitals for further examination is under consideration of Government.

(*b*) The cases of all security prisoners including female security prisoners are being reviewed once every six months and no security prisoner will be detained longer than is necessary on security grounds.

(*c*) The honourable member is referred to the reply to (*a*).

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the two security prisoners were lodged in Dinajpur Jail and when these complaints regarding their ailments were made known to the jail authorities in Dinajpur?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the Jail Superintendent who is also the Civil Surgeon recommended for their transfer?

(Pause.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you require so much time to answer the question?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: If he wants details, I would naturally require time.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: He is honestly trying to answer the question.

Mr. SPEAKER: The time of the House is wasted by taking two or three minutes over every question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I want to know if the Parliamentary Secretary is wasting the time of the House when he tries to answer the question.

Mr. SPEAKER: You please put your question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when they were actually transferred to the Presidency Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Were they admitted into the Medical College Hospitals after their transfer from Dinajpur?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: After transfer from Dinajpur Mrs. Das Gupta was sent to the Hospital for treatment and after treatment she was sent back to Dinajpur.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that Mrs. Das Gupta is suffering from cholecystitis and cholelithiasis, that is, stone in gall bladder, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enlighten the House if any steps have been taken for the immediate release of the prisoner?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Mrs. Das Gupta is getting a regular course of treatment for occasional relapses of her ailment.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us what was the recommendation or advice given by the Physician or Surgeon specialist whoever he might be in the case of Mrs. Das Gupta?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: She has been advised to take modified sipi treatment with olive oil and alkaline powder and other symptomatic treatment when occasion arises. That treatment has been given to her. I may also add that when she was admitted into the hospital, her weight was only 91 lbs. and that when she left it, her weight was 98 lbs. During the time she was in the hospital, there was an increase in her weight.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us any indication as to how he can say that Miss Saila Bala Sen has improved in her health since she has been lodged in the Presidency Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I was referring to Mrs. Das Gupta.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I know that. But I am asking now about Miss Saila Bala Sen.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Her weight chart is in front of me and from that I find that her weight has increased.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what other indications there are to show that she is improving?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: What are the grounds in support of the statement that he has made that Miss Sen has improved in her health?

Mr. SPEAKER: He has already replied to that question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will you allow me to make my submission?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Kundu.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: He has stated in his answer "Miss Sen has been getting medicines and extra diet as suggested by the Physician Specialist and she has improved in her health". I want to know what are his grounds for saying that she has improved in her health?

Mr. SPEAKER: In between you have also asked what are the indications. If Khan Bahadur Mohammed Ali can answer that question, I have no objection.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I want to state that the weight to which I referred was taken in 1943. I do not know her present weight. So, I cannot say whether she has gained in her weight now or not.

Starred Questions 94, 95 and 96 held over from 28th February 1945.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: We may now take up the held over questions *94, *95 and *96.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: May I make my submission? These questions were held over at our request. We did not know that these would be taken up today. I suggest that they may be taken up tomorrow.

Mr. SPEAKER: These questions are held over till tomorrow.

*Held over Question No. *112 from 1st March 1945.*

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Release of persons detained without trial under rule 26 of Defence of India Rules.

*112. **Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) how many persons detained without trial under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules have been released since the present Ministry assumed office;

(*b*) how many of the persons released have been restricted in their movements;

(*c*) whether the persons restricted have been granted any allowance; and

(*d*) if so, how many of them?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Five hundred and fifty-eight.

(*b*) Eighty-six.

(*c*) and (*d*) Yes; eleven of them.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether these 86 restrictees whose movements were restricted made any application for allowance?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: How many of them applied for allowance?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice. But I may say that 11 of them have been granted allowance.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us what is the maximum amount that was given and what is the minimum amount?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that by these restriction orders they have been prevented from pursing their ordinary civil avocations, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to grant all of them some maintenance allowance?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The restrictees have not been prevented from earning their livelihood. There has been of course some restriction on their movement and in cases where Government are satisfied that there has been hardship, Government have been granting allowances and are prepared to do so.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that permission for leaving their ordinary place of residence where they have been restricted to reside cannot be obtained even after three or four weeks from the date of their application for leaving the station?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Some delay might have been occurring but I do not know whether it has been so much as 3 to 4 weeks.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the information that I have just now given when putting my question, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable that they should be granted maintenance allowance because they cannot pursue their avocations in life and earn their livelihood?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: In cases of proved hardship and if Government is satisfied that hardship has been caused to the family, allowance will be given; and in accordance with that policy allowance has already been granted.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that some of the detenus applied for maintenance allowance a long time ago but the Government department had not even the courtesy to reply to it?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware.

Condition of health of certain security prisoners detained in Buxa Special Jail.

*147. **Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the present condition of the following security prisoners detained in the Buxa Special Jail:—

(1) Mr. Purna Chandra Das,
(2) Mr. Nandalal Singha,
(3) Mr. Rebati Ranjan Chakrabarty,
(4) Mr. Sukhendu Bikash Dutta,
(5) Mr. Prafulla Chandra Ghosh,
(6) Mr. Ashutosh Sinha,
(7) Mr. Amarprasad Chakrabarty,
(8) Mr. Satyandra Nath Kar, and
(9) Mr. Santosh Banerjee; and

(*ii*) whether the aforesaid security prisoners were examined by—

(1) the Civil Surgeon, Jalpaiguri district, and
(2) the Medical Officer, Buxa Special Reserve Jail?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) (*ii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) the date of their examination; and

(*ii*) the results thereof?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Medical Officers referred to in (*a*) (2) recommended for their transfer from Buxa Special Jail for proper treatment?

(*d*) If so, what action have the Government taken on their recommendations and when?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*)(*i*) Numbers (1), (2), (3), (4), (5) and (6) have already been transferred to other Jails. The condition of the health of the other three prisoners is indifferent.

(*ii*) Yes.

(*b*) (*i*) The Medical Officer of the Jail examined the prisoners off and on and the Civil Surgeon also examined some of the prisoners more than once. Accordingly the dates cannot be given.

(*ii*) Their cases were diagnosed and proper treatment prescribed.

(*c*) and (*d*) The Civil Surgeon did not recommend the transfer of numbers (8) and (9). All the others, except No. (7) who was once transferred to the Jalpaiguri Jail for operative treatment but had to be brought back as the operation could not be performed there, have been transferred. Arrangement has also been made for the proper treatment of the prisoners as prescribed.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DUTTA: With reference to the last part of the answer (*a*)(*i*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the meaning of the word "indifferent"? Is it equivalent to "bad"?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is only a question relating to the meaning of a word, it does not arise.

Fire at Kamalaghat in Dacca district.

*148. **Mr. ASHUTOSH LAHIRI:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) the cause of the devastating fire at Kamalaghat in Dacca district on the 26th October last;

(*b*) whether his attention has been drawn to the serious allegations made in the papers about the origin of the fire;

(*c*) the extent of loss suffered by Hindu and Muslim merchants—to be shown separately;

(*d*) the number of merchants affected by the fire;

(*e*) whether the Government intends to pay compensation to the sufferers; and

(*f*) whether the Hon'ble Minister is considering the desirability of having a public enquiry about the causes of the conflagration?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) The fire started in a godown of Babu Jagadish Pal. Government are satisfied that the fire was an accident but the exact cause is not known.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Detailed information is not available.

(*d*) 103.

(*e*) and (*f*) No.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government held any enquiry in regard to this fire and, if so, what is the result of that enquiry?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: An enquiry was held.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Who were the persons entrusted with the enquiry?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Officers of Government.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Who are the officers who were entrusted with the enquiry?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The Superintendent of Polcie was one of them.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Who are the other officers?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any evidence was collected at the spot from non-officials who were in a position to give evidence in connection with the fire?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Who were the persons from whom evidence was taken?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the local Hindu leaders were not consulted in regard to this enquiry at all?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he has seen the definite allegations made in the papers that this fire was the result of a deliberate conspiracy and that there was a large sale of magnesium powder, kerosene and petrol in the bazar just before the fire incident?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. Government report after due enquiry is that it was not a case of incendiarism.

Mr. ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: Sir, my question is whether there was a definite allegation in the press that things like magnesium powder, kerosene and petrol had been purchased from the Kamalaghat. bazar immediately before the fire took place?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not aware of the magnesium powder and other things but Government is aware of the allegations made that the fire was caused by miscreants.

Mr. ASHUTOSH LAHIRI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the enquiring officer recorded a statement of non-official persons of Kamalaghat bandar during the course of the enquiry?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir. Evidence of non-officials was taken at the Kamalaghat bandar.

Sj. NARENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that before the fire started at the Kamalaghat bandar, some days before that incident, a procession with music was conducted by the Hindus there and the Mussalmans threatened reprisals?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I refer the honourable member to what I already stated in reply to this question during the last session.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the facts, circumstances and evidence in possession of Government whereby Government are satisfied that the fire was an accident and not created by miscreants?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: He has said it was done by miscreants.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, I did not say that. I only said that Government is aware of the allegation that it was caused by miscreants.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the circumstances, facts and evidence by which Government are satisfied that the fire was a mere accident?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot give details but after proper investigation Government were satisfied that the cause of the fire was a pure accident.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is aware that half an hour or so before the fire actually broke out at the Kamalaghat *bandar* fire was also set to the shed of the Pauls in which the image of Durga was being held up?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice but as far as I remember the fire originated from there but I am speaking subject to correction. I think that is the position if my memory does not fail me.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the distance between the house of the Pauls and the Kamalaghat bazar where the fire broke out?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid I have to ask for notice but probably I stated on another occasion that the fire started in the godown of one Jagadish Paul.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government took any steps whatsoever to ascertain whether there was any connection between the fire in the house of the Pauls and the fire in the Kamalaghat *bandar*?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already stated that the cause of the devastating fire at Kamalaghat was the fire which started at the godown of Jagadish Paul.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the enquiring officer asked for evidence in support of the allegation that it was an act of incendiarism?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government have any hypothesis as to the connection between the two fires?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what connection, if any, has been established by the report of the investigating officer between the fire in the Paul's godowns and the fire at Kamalaghat *bandar*?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already stated that the fire in the *bandar* started from the fire in the godown of the Pauls?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Was there any enquiry about the report that a fire broke out in the residential house of the Pauls half an hour before the fire in the bazar where Jagadish Paul's godown was first set fire to?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Is there anything in the report to show any connection between the fire in the Paul's godowns and the fire at the Kamalaghat bazar? Was investigation directed to that point?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Government is aware that the fire broke out in the *dhenki ghar* of the Pauls and the hut was partially burnt but there is no evidence that this was a case of incendiarism.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister consider the desirability of placing a copy of the report of the enquiring authority on the Library table?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The answer is in the negative.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question time over. The House stands adjourned for fifteen minutes.

(The House was adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Supplementary Estimates for the year 1944-45.

Point of order.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, may I rise on a point of order?

Mr. SPEAKER: Before anything is called on?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I presume that today, as you have already intimated to the House, the House is going to discuss supplementary demands for grants and it is in that connection that I want to rise on a point of order.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the best course would be that he moves.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I do not want him to move. If it is out of order, he cannot move it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Suppose nothing is moved, nothing is done. How can a point of order arise?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It will arise out of the proposed business of the House. If it is moved, then——

Mr. SPEAKER: If I uphold your point of order, then it is cancelled.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: If he is allowed to move, he can go on and you can say "I will give my ruling later on" as you have done in the past. It is the third consecutive year——

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another matter. You want to say that you have got submissions to make regarding the supplementary demands, but I think we must proceed with some business and then the point of order will arise.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: As soon as you call upon, I will get up.

Mr SPEAKER: Supplementary Estimate of the Government of Bengal for the year 1944-45. 63—Extraordinary Charges in India. Sir Nazimuddin!

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, may I rise on a point of order?

Mr. SPEAKER: I think the best course would be that he moves it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have my point of order regarding the motion itself. Now that you have called upon, the technicalities that you had at first raised have been met.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, if there is no motion before the House——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, you have called upon the Hon'ble Minister and it is on the basis of your calling upon the Hon'ble Minister that I have got to raise a point of order. A point of order, as you know, Sir, may be raised at any stage.

Mr. SPEAKER: I know quite well that a point of order can be raised at any stage, but the point is that there must be some business before the House. I have called upon Sir Nazimuddin to move a certain motion and your objection relates to that motion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: My objection is to the moving of the motion itself.

Mr. SPEAKER: All right, you go on.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I submit that the Hon'ble Minister moving the demand for grant for "Extraordinary Charges in India" cannot move the demand for grant tabled and for which you have called upon him to move. It appears from the expenditure provided under that head that the total amount under "Extraordinary Charges in India" for which the motion is proposed to be made is Rs. 9,80,98,000. We are now on the 6th March and this amount is supposed to be spent by the 31st March, 1945. On a previous occasion I raised this point of order and categorically demanded of the Hon'ble Finance Minister whether he is in a position to state that not one single rupee out of the proposed additional grant has actually been spent to which he did say that evidently a substantial portion, if not all, has been spent already. I, therefore, rise today on the authority of that statement that a large amount at least, if not a substantial part, of this sum of "Extraordinary Charges in India" has already been spent and it no longer remains within the category of estimates which alone can be brought before this House for previous approval of the Legislature in connection with demands to be voted by the House. Section 80 of the Government of India Act provides for such supplementary estimates being presented before the Legislature and for the opinion of the Legislature being taken thereon. But there are other measures contemplated in the Act for such expenses that have for some reason or other been already spent and have been in excess of the amount budgeted for and this is done usually after scrutiny by the Public Accounts Committee through a motion of the nature of an excess grant motion and in this House we had previously done that when we regularised some of the additional expenditure incurred during the year concerned. I submit, Sir, that it is wholly improper, irregular and *ultra vires* of the provision of Section 80 of the Government of India Act to seek to regularise and legalise an act of Government of having spent already some amount in excess of the amount voted for and budgeted for the current year.

Sir, in this regard I have to invite your attention to the ruling given by President Patel in the Indian Legislative Assembly on the 16th March, 1929, when in connection with the supplementary demand for grant in respect of Railways, the Hon'ble President specifically put to the Hon'ble Sir George Rainy, the then Finance Member of the Government of India, whether to his knowledge any portion of that amount had already been spent. Sir George Rainy stated in reply that the expenditure had proceeded in anticipation of the approval of the House and he admitted that a certain

portion of that amount had already been spent. On that the President ruled "I think the Hon'ble Member will agree with me when I say that if money has been spent alrady in excess of the grant voted by this Assembly, Government can only come by way of a motion for excess grant. That is, as I understand, the right parliamentary procedure." But, Sir, in view of the fact that this was permitted and they were taken by surprise, the Hon'ble President did not want to stop the debate immediately. The Hon'ble President said: "However as the honourable member points out that this practice has been in vogue for the last few years I do not wish to raise any objection at this stage but will see that the procedure is regularised in future." Since then in the Central Legislature there has been hardly any attempt to bring under Supplementary Estimates amounts that have already been spent and there has been a healthy practice there of consulting the Standing Finance Committee during the course of the year if any additional amount is required; and the Standing Finance Committee sometimes approves of additional expenditure with the definite stipulation that the earliest opportunity will be taken by Government to take the vote of the legislature in regard to the amount so sanctioned.

Here in Bengal unfortunately, we have not had that Standing Finance Committee procedure adopted. I submit that, in the circumstances, there is no possibility of Government spending in excess of the voted demand unless Government comes to the House earlier before actually spending the amount. For the last three years in succession, I have been pressing both in the legislature as also in the Public Accounts Committee the irregularity committed by Government in regard to these supplementary demands for grants, and the extent of the demands this year shows the atrocious conduct in that regard. There are demands for Rs. 65 crores and above on 38 items. We were originally given only two days for voting the same and after a good deal of negotiation and persuasion we got three days. Even so, it is not posible for the House to apply its mind to the demand dealing with so many items. Therefore, Sir, I submit that apart from the technical irregularity there is no moral justification for rushing the House in this manner in pasing or in voting large amounts very much in excess even of the normal expenditure of Government in the course of one revenue year. In the circumstances, Sir, I submit that you should be pleased to rule that it is not regular, it is *ultra vires* of the Act and Government must take the chance of putting these irregularities through the usual scrutiny of the Public Accounts Committee and then come to the House. That is the procedure for excess grants as was very definitely held by President Patel in the Indian Legislative Asembly.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: On this point of order, I have another argument to put forward. It cannot be said, Sir, that we are taking Government by surprise by raising this point of order which has been so ably raised by my honourable friend Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal, because I think, Sir, that, so far as the main question is concerned, namely, whether incurred expenditure can be included within or named as Estimates or not, that point is covered by your previous ruling also. May I remind you, Sir, of the proceedings in relation to the second Budget for the year 1943-44? In that connection, we raised the point of order that the amount that was already spent could not be included in the Estimates. And, Sir, if I remember your ruling aright, you held that that could not be done and therefore the Second Budget estimates for 1943-44 could not be put forward before the House. Those proposals were considered irregular and therefore the second Budget for 1943-44 had to be revised and the Revised Budget had to come up before the House in September, 1943.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: May I submit, Sir, that in presenting the Supplementary Budget we have followed the usual practice in this House for a number of years? It is true that for the last two years there has been an extraordinary additional increase of expenditure

and the supplementary estimates have been very heavy (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Unusual!) under unusual circumstances. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is so.) As my honourable friend Dr. Sanyal has pointed out, there is no Standing Finance Committee here; but towards the end of his speech he said that we should consult the Public Accounts Committee and come before the legislature. I do not know exactly what he meant by that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is the usual procedure.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: If you recognise that as excess grant, then it has got to come to the House through the Public Accounts Committee.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: That would be two years later.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We have got to wait till then.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: That would be very inconvenient.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: For you. Ultimately you may have to fork out money from your own pocket.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: If I am sold 50 times or 100 times over that amount will still not be recovered. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It may be a test case.) The point is that we could help incurring expenditure. That is a fact which, I suppose, is appreciated by the House. All we could have done was to ask for block grants or lump sum grants; and as I explained on a previous occasion a few days ago I think it is more satisfactory that we should come forward with real estimates even at a later stage. Sir, I quite understand the honourable member's difficulty. I myself wanted to bring the supplementary estimates earlier before the House, say, in the November-December sesion, but I found it impossible to work it out. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Inefficiency.) Sir, I heard that remark on the last occasion also, but I do not wish to retort. I think it is incapacity of understanding why it was impossible. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: If the House of Commons can do it, why can't you?) In the House of Commons it is the practice to sit throughout the year; they have continuous session and they have got a system of block grant for emergency expenditure. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is not so bad as it is.) I think, Sir, that the procedure we have followed in this House is the best in the present circumstances.

May I submit one thing, Sir? Before you give your ruling, we might sit together and think out the best procedure. Last year you did not give us any directions. Mr. Deputy Speaker who was in the chair on that occasion did not give any directions but left it to you, Mr. Speaker.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is not correct. You flouted his ruling. You do not read the proceedings.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: I read the proceedings only two hours ago and what I found there corroborates what I had definitely remembered. Mr. Deputy Speaker said that he would indicate the way in which his mind was working but would leave it to the Speaker to give a ruling. That ruling was never given. Therefore we had never any specific directions. This year I humbly suggest that we might consult all party leaders and my services would be at your disposal and we may decide on a course of action and you may give your direction accordingly for the future.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Just in reply to Dr. Sanyal. He has himself quoted what President Patel held. It was admitted that

in the Indian Legislative Assembly also this was the procedure followed in previous years, and after that it was decided that the present method should be followed in future and since then the Assembly is following this procedure. I suggest that the same thing should be done here also. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is not a new case.) As has been pointed out, no definite directions were given and therefore the Hon'ble Finance Minister suggested that this year this might be allowed and then the Speaker might call a conference of leaders and after discussion we may decide what the procedure should be in future.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Sir, I stand corrected. The ruling I referred to was given by the Deputy Speaker and not by yourself. But, Sir, so long as you do not revise that ruling, it holds good and the ruling was emphatic on the point that incurred expenditure could not be included in and presented as the Estimates. There was that ruling in pursuance of which a revised budget was prepared and placed before the House in September, 1943.

Mr. SPEAKER: There has been some controversy regarding certain facts——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No controversy.

Mr. SPEAKER: They have got to be ascertained. You have made certain statements——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But the fact is not denied.

Mr. SPEAKER: I mean with regard to the ruling. So far as the other facts are concerned, they are all admitted. But with regard to the direction given by the Chair——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That does not matter.

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Ruling is a matter of record.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: May I quote Mr. Deputy Speaker's own word: "Although I have my views about it—I have given some indication of my views before—I leave it to Mr. Speaker and it is for him to decide whether he will allow it or not".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will you read out the indication of his?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Here the Deputy Speaker definitely says that he does not give a ruling and that he has left it to the Speaker. (Interruption.)

Rai HARENDRA NATH CHAUDHURI: Why then were revised estimates necessary?

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: I am talking of the supplementary estimates. I am talking of what took place on the 28th February and not before.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That was the second time we raised the point.

Mr. SPEAKER: That was my time. Dr. Sanyal, have you got anything more to say?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I submit that the matter has been before you for a pretty long time and also before Government for a pretty long time. We have also waited on you in your Chamber and explained our difficulties in this connection. We submit that we feel that you are also

ready with your own decision. That decision must be made known to the House at least for Government to correct itself in future, if not in the immediate present. We consider it irregular and ultra vires of the Act and we leave it to you to give your ruling. This kind of holding up things till eternity has been the bane of our legislative work and we do not propose to wait for further conferences and meetings. Our point is clear.

Mr. SPEAKER: The point raised is of great importance. Speaking for myself, I have not been able to give that much attention to the subject that it deserves. But on a cursory glance at the provisions of the law and the rules, it appears to me to be perfectly clear that the law never contemplated inclusion of incurred expenditure in supplementary estimates. But the practice has been going on somewhat irregularly for some time.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: In spite of protests!

Mr. SPEAKER: And following that practice and without a definite direction from the Chair, they have even this year presented supplementary demands in a way which strictly speaking is not quite regular. But in view of the practice that has been going on this matter has been allowed to be placed before the House. I don't think that any useful purpose will be served by disallowing the motion altogether. I therefore allow the motion but in future I will give definite directions on the point which I hope Government will follow.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Give the directions now for the future!

Mr. SPEAKER: I would give you definite directions on Monday.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Thank you, Sir.

DEMAND FOR GRANT.

63—Extraordinary Charges in India.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 9,80,98,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" during the current year.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Before we take up the cut motions, on behalf of the entire opposition groups and parties, I submit to you that tonight's session be extended till such hour as the reasonable debate on various issues raised may require and the debate may be concluded. I submit that it is not possible for the Opposition to bring out their points in a short period up to 7-30 p.m. and it would be desirable for us to sit much longer than the usual period. In view of the very large amount of expenditure incurred and the huge amount of money demanded, we feel that Government will not object to our longer sitting and if that is not permitted we shall have to decide on our course of action regarding these motions.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: In view of the considerations which Dr. Sanyal has put forward, we have added one more day to the voting of these demands. Previously, we used to have only two days. On a representation made by Dr. Sanyal to you, Government agreed to allot another day when you brought it to their notice. That was how three days were given. This year, you will find that the Assembly is sitting for full three hours whereas previously it used to sit only for two hours and forty-five minutes. In view of all these, I would suggest that the time should not be extended further.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: On this point, I must say that the attitude of the Chief Whip of the Government is very ungenerous because when the Government have indulged in spending unlimited crores

of rupees, the mere addition of one day to the debate is a very poor consolation. You know that there is not only the question of legality and legitimateness of expenditure but various allegations are made against the Government on various grounds and the Opposition must have adequate time and opportunity for discussing and for ventilating the grievances of the people. Either Government must agree to sit earlier or such opportunities should be made available to the Opposition which will mean doing justice to the matter. Unless that is done, we are not going to have a mere mock debate which will be absolute farce and we are not going to countenance that.

Mr. SPEAKER: The whole difficulty arises from this. It is a question of half an hour only. That is not much. We generally rise at 7-30 p.m. and I understand from the note of Dr. Sanyal handed to the office that the Assembly should sit till 8 p.m.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is the programme. I have not confined myself to that.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am sorry if I am wrong because I have based my statement on your note which was handed to the office. The real difficulty, so far as I have understood it, is a question of convenience of members.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Let us sit earlier then.

Mr. SPEAKER: Perhaps members would not like to sit till late hours.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We must.

Mr. SPEAKER: The Opposition is always ready. I quite see that. I feel that this is a matter entirely for arrangement between the Government and the Opposition groups.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: That is in your hands.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is a matter of arrangement between you and the Government.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: You can compel the Government to sit the whole night.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: May I make one submission? The matter is really in your hands. We are asked to consider and vote for the grants of the amount of Rs. 65 crores. There are 38 items and some of these items individually amount to more than one crore of rupees and we have been given two hours a day for three days. That means six hours altogether to pass a budget of 65 crores of rupees. This, I consider, Sir, is monstrous. Recently, Sir, in view of the strenuous labour we have to put in here we have increased our salary. I do not see any reason why we should not sit for longer hours. This decision being in your hands I hope you will decide that we will sit for longer hours and discuss the items properly.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I suggest that during the Prayer interval you call the leaders in a conference and discuss and settle the matter. It has been very correctly pointed out by you that it is a matter in which members are interested and, as you are aware, previously we used to meet at 4-45 p.m. but owing to lighting restrictions and black-out difficulties and difficulty in getting conveyance at night we advanced the time of the meeting of the Council from 2-30 p.m. to 1-30 p.m. to enable us to meet at 4 p.m. so that we may get away earlier. We want to sit till 7-30 p.m. and not more but there are other views also. So it would be better if you call leaders in your room and discuss the matter for a settlement.

Mr. SPEAKER: I think that would be the best course.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Provided the Government is agreeable; otherwise we do not want to carry on this debate which would be a sham and a mockery. This is absolutely a trickery to draw us into this game. This British method of asking us to participate in the debate in this manner is an absolute trickery. I am not going to submit to this kind of game. They have no reply to some of the charges. We know of thousands and thousands of charges where they have squandered and stolen the money and this Government is so corrupt that they cannot face an enquiry, they cannot face the legislature and meet the charges.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, you will have ample opportunity to discuss the matter.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Give us that ample opportunity and we will be satisfied.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will see that you get the fullest opportunity. We can now go on.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What is your decision, Sir? How many minutes shall I get for the presentation of my case? You cannot cut me in the middle.

Mr. SPEAKER: You just go on and you will have your time.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Let me know how many minutes I will get.

Mr. SPEAKER: First move your motion, Dr. Sanyal.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: But I have to arrange my speech within the time that you will allow me.

Mr. SPEAKER: Generally I allow fifteen minutes and in this case I will allow you more time.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Unless you give us a complete picture of the whole thing and give us sufficient time, it is no use proceeding with the business. It within the allotted time you give more time to one member you will be cutting the time of other members who want to speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: The matter is entirely in your hands.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy has pertinently pointed out that we have been called upon to deal with a budget of 65 crores. Formerly the Bengal budget used to cover 13 crores and we used to get 17 days. For 65 crores, that is, five times the amount of such budgets, we are going to get three days or six hours in all. From that point of view we ought to have got five times the usual budget period of 17 days for the supplementary budget.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: We want your decision here and now.

Mr. SPEAKER: We cannot settle all these things in the House.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: You adjourn now for five minutes and decide the matter. We do not want to be blindfolded by Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: If you so like, I have no objection but in that case you will lose ten or fifteen minutes of your time for that.

The House stands adjourned for ten minutes and I would request the leaders to meet me in my chamber.

(The House was accordingly adjourned for ten minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, may we have your decision as to whether you are prepared to allow reasonable debate in the House and stand by the rights of the Legislature to examine Government proposals for demands for grants in all their aspects fully and fairly giving this House a proper chance and opportunity to debate, and I submit that we may require a much longer sitting than is usual in this House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I quite realise the desire of the Opposition to sit for longer hours on a question like this but a programme, I understand, was practically agreed upon.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No, no. In fact, if you look up the proceedings you will find that on that very day we demanded whole-night sitting.

Mr. SPEAKER: However, as the number of days are concerned I was told that originally only two days were fixed. Subsequently it was extended by one day more.

Dr NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is true; even so we demanded longer hours.

Mr. SPEAKER: Well, you are demanding it, there is no doubt about it. That is palpable by your opposition here in this House. I had a talk with the leaders and as far as I could understand their claim was for one more day.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will you look up the proceedings? You will be disillusioned, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, I am not speaking what happened in this House. I was not here. I am speaking of what happened in my chamber just now. It appears to me that what was demanded in the chamber was an extra day (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: and longer hours) and there was also an indication that they ought to sit earlier—not later. It means sitting earlier. That is what Mr. Roy expressly stated. So far as I am concerned I pointed out my difficulties. The rules are there. We can sit earlier only by arrangement but I can certainly prolong the sitting. That is a different matter. That is in my power no doubt but even there I have got to consult the convenience of members. If the members say that they are unwilling to continue late in the night on account of black-out and other difficulties, I cannot force them to be present. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Black-out may be lifted while the Assembly is in session.) I am speaking of the present state of things. There had been opposition from the Opposition to sit longer hours on some occasions. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sitting late hours. There is a great deal of difference between the two.) Even sometimes there was opposition. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: When there were snakes here in this building.) Who knows there are not snakes even now. (Laughter.) I think we are losing much time in this way. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: We are losing crores and crores of rupees, let us lose a few hours.) What I suggested was, let us go on with the work and let us reduce the question time by half an hour for two days. (Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No, no.)

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Questions cannot be sabotaged only to accommodate the Government. There are questions even from 1942 held up.

Mr. SPEAKER: If the House is not agreeable to come to some arrangement, then I am helpless. All that I can say is this: let us go on and I will see what is reasonable.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: We cannot travel in a blind alley.

Mr. SPEAKER: If you ask me that I must say here and now how long we are going to sit, that is tying the hands of the Speaker. That is not desirable.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: We expect the Speaker to rise up to the occasion and to adjust the requirements against the time.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am certainly trying. I have tried my best to accommodate the Opposition and I will always try to meet the wishes of the Opposition.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: We can assemble at 3 and Government ought to agree to that. The Upper House can sit at 11.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us proceed with this.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: No, Sir. Are we tools in the hands of the Government to serve according to their convenience?

Mr. SPEAKER: This is a question which cannot be decided in the House in this way because all that I can do is to proceed according to rules. I am going to proceed according to rules. I will do that, but if you ask me to tell you from before how long I am going to sit and how long I am going to compel the House to sit in other words, it is a very difficult task for me. If the majority of the members say "We are not going to sit——"

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: We are not dictating to you; we want your help and direction.

Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE: May I request you to give us an assurance that you will prolong the time to some extent at least.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: There must be reasonable debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: I can assure you to this extent that I will try to see that you get more time.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: That is nothing. You ought to speak out your mind more clearly.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You assure us reasonable debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: "Reasonable time" is a very vague term. Perhaps from your point of view, as has been stated by some, "reasonable debate" means that as this budget deals with 65 crores, five times the normal budget, therefore five times the normal times is necessary, which means $5 \times 15 = 75$ days. It may be argued in that way. Therefore, what is "reasonable time" is a matter of opinion. Therefore I would request you to resume the work. I will try my best to help you.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: The tragedy of the whole thing is that you always expect the Opposition to be reasonable and to leave things to you but you can never compel the Government to reciprocate the reasonableness.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not in my hand to compel the Government.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Then let us not have this farce.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Speaker, with great respect I want to correct one statement which you have been pleased to make so far as I am concerned. I did not say that one day more should be given to the debate. I was wanting extension of time for reasonable debate—whether by extension of days or extension of hours. That is one thing I want to submit

to you. The second thing, Sir, is that we are demanding extension of time. Instead of your giving any ruling or any decision let us first of all enquire from the Leader of the House how is he going to accommodate us or whether he refuses to accommodate us at all and then we will come to a decision. Therefore, first of all I would request him to make a statement.

Mr. SPEAKER: There ought to be mutual understanding.

(Cries of "We want to hear the Leader of the House" from the Opposition.)

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, the original demand was for extension of time and I first protested against that extension, but later on I agreed to extend the time by one day. I have come to learn that the Whips have represented to Mr. Speaker that the hours of sitting might be extended till 8 o'clock, which would mean one and half hours for these three days. We might also suggest that for these three days questions may be finished half an hour earlier. (Cries of "no, no" from the Opposition.) Sir, we have tried to accommodate whenever it appeared that a reasonable request has been made. (Cries of "Question, question" from the Opposition benches.) As the Hon'ble Mr. Speaker pointed out there have been occasions when Opposition have refused to sit one minute longer. When we asked on the occasion of the debates over the Secondary Education Bill that the House should sit longer, the Opposition refused to sit even one minute after 7 o'clock.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: We stick to that.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: That won't apply to a Finance Bill.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: That is a matter of opinion. The Secondary Education Bill was considered just as important as financial matters both here and outside. Government are still prepared, if the Opposition so choose, to have Friday for this business. (Cries of "No, no" from the Opposition Benches.)

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Friday is a non-official day.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: If they do not accept our views, I have got nothing further to add.

Mr. SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: Sir, in response to the request from the Leader of the Congress Party the Hon'ble the Leader of the House has made a few suggestions, each one of which is to curtail the privilege of the Opposition either in the matter of interpellations or in the matter of non-official business. We cannot accede to any of these suggestions. If the Leader of the House is anxious to accommodate the Opposition by extension of time for discussion of the supplementary estimate, he ought to curtail the official business and make a present to us of those days and that time will be available for this business.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is there going to be an agreement?

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Government is not in a mood to agree.

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: I would just try to explain. (Cries of "no, no" from the Opposition Benches.) I do not see why the offer of the Leader of the House cannot be acceptable to the House. (Cries of "no, no" and "we do not want to hear you" from the Opposition.)

Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMED: Has the Leader of the House failed to explain the thing?

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: If this attitude is taken, we can also reciprocate in the same manner.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Are you speaking in a parlour?

Mr. FAZLUR RAHMAN: If you do not want to hear anything from me I won't speak.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. There must be an end of this state of things. We must proceed with our business.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: This is our business and we want your ruling.

Mr. SPEAKER: No question of ruling arises.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: You express your mind.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already expressed my mind. I cannot go beyond that. I will try my best to accommodate you as far as practicable. That is all I can tell you. I cannot go beyond that. If you want to have anything definite, it must be by an understanding with the Government. If there be any understanding between Government and the Opposition, certainly it will be a very good thing, and I shall be very glad. I was expecting an agreement on a matter like this. Now, if it is a question of a day only, we have got to find out a day. Sir Nazimuddin has offered Friday but that is a non-official day. (Cries of "no, no" from the Opposition.) Sir Nazimuddin, can we not take any other day?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: No other day is available.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Let us sit at 3 p.m. every day and let us have one exrta day.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: That is a very reasonable suggestion.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, will you kindly move your motion? I shall give you every opportunity that is in my power.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, in view of the attitude expressed by the Leader of the House reflecting upon the views of the Opposition and in view of the fact that you feel helpless in regard to assuring reasonable debate, I feel that no useful purpose will be served by our moving our motions.

Sir, we have got a large number of specific instances of maladministration, corruption, bribery (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: What not?) and practical waste of the country's resources by the Government, particularly the Department in charge of Civil Supplies, Civil Defence and so on. In the absence of reasonable opportunities in this House, we propose to call upon our countrymen officials and non-officials inside the legislature and outside to undertake a campaign against bribery, corruption, malpractice and maladministration and we invite the co-operation of all sections of this House, if they so choose, in that attempt. We shall issue appeals even to officials concerned to stand up and protect their own reputation, even if they get unholy directions from the Ministry above, in order to keep the fair name of this province unsullied. We shall not in that event find any necessity of using this forum today for placing all our facts before the legislature. We shall be prepared, if Government so chooses, to place all materials before any impartial Enquiry Committee as the Famine Inquiry Commission; that Commission came and sought our assistance and having been satisfied with some of our points and thoroughly convinced about the maladministration of the Government of Bengal are shortly going to issue, if the Government of India permit publication, a most damaging report about the activities of the Department of Civil Supplies, particularly with

regard to distribution of food, appointment of Mr. Ispahani and the like. We shall take the same measure, the same course. If Government have courage, either Government here or the Government of India or the Parliament through a Royal Commission should investigate into the maladministration that has caused Bengal so much suffering and distress and has managed practically to bring down the name of Bengal to mud. We shall be prepared to co-operate in such enquiry. In the meantime, we appeal to all persons to help us in collecting facts and materials; and in so doing we hope and trust that they will try themselves to ascertain the correctness of these instances and materials before they pass them on to us and the Whips of the Opposition will be prepared to keep strict confidence if they are contacted. The strictest confidence will be maintained; if any officials are prepared to give us facts and materials about the Department we shall try to help them as much as possible in the interests of the nation. and we feel that there are many officials who are likely to be helpful in this connection. If any non-official comes across instances we shall bring them to light and thus carry on a campaign to establish the fair name of Bengal. We do not propose to take any part in the debate in this manner and we shall take other measures. Unless Government is prepared, and unless you are prepared, to assure a reasonable debate we do not propose to move our motions.

Mr SANTOSH KUMAR BASU: On behalf of my party I fully endorse the observations made by Dr. Sanyal and I also call upon the members of my party to leave the House without taking any part in this sham and mock debate.

Mr. M. SHAMSUDDIN AHMAD: Sir, I find Sir Nazimuddin laughing. He is glorified and he will remain glorified for what he has done during the past two years. It has already been submitted by Dr. Sanyal how the Department of Civil Supplies functions and for a reasonable debate sufficient time should be given to the members of the House. That has not been done. I am at one with the observations made by previous speakers and I and my party will not take part in this debate.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Corruption, thy name is Bengal Government!

(Opposition members then walked out.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Before I put this demand to the House and before I allow the Hon'ble Mr. Suhrawardy to move his motion, I want to be sure about the programme. I think that the prayer begins at 6-45 p.m. I propose to come back at 7 p.m. The House will stand adjourned up to 7 p.m. and I will come back. I hope we shall then be in a position to finish our business.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Why Sir. Let us finish it now.

Khan Bahadur JASIMUDDIN AHMAD: Let us finish the business now.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have got no objection. What I want to be sure about is the Government programme. It was settled that this business would last for three days. Subsequently a circular has been issued that two Demands will be disposed of today. So, I think that these two matters should be disposed of today. If the Opposition has thought fit to leave the House, it does not matter. We must proceed with the business. That is what I am feeling. I wanted to know what the exact programme is. That is why I want a little time to consult the Secretary. From the Secretary, I understand, and I am satisfied, that according to the programme two items, viz., "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" and "85A—Capital Outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War, 1939" have to be

disposed of today. So, we have got to proceed with those two items of business. Sir Nazimuddin has already moved his demand and it is before the House now.

Does any honourable member wish to speak on the demand?

(No response.)

The motion of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin that a sum of Rs. 9,80,98,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "63—Extraordinary Charges in India" during the current year was then put and agreed to.

85A—Capital outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War, 1939.

The Hon'ble Mr. H. S. SUHRAWARDY: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 48,80,36,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "85A—Capital outlay on Provincial Schemes connected with the War, 1939" during the current year.

Sir, I am extremely sorry that the Opposition are not here to ventilate their charges on the floor of the House and they have contented themselves by making scurrilous remarks and insinuations. I would have liked to hear what they have got to say and I would have liked to tell them also what I have to say in reply. I feel they have really nothing of importance to place before the House, and they imagine they will be able to create with the help of a sympathetic press an atmosphere of prejudice against us far better by walking out than by making statements which could easily be refuted on the floor of the House. They claim to be the protagonists of a clean administration. I need hardly say to this House that those who had hitherto supported a pretty rotten administration should be the last persons to come and play the role of great protagonists of a clean administration. I am sure the persons who have time to think will just evaluate their actions at what they are worth which is nothing. Sir, I place the motion before the House for acceptance.

The motion was put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 6-40 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Wednesday, the 7th March, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Wednesday, the 7th March, 1945, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble MR. SYED NAUSHER ALI), in the Chair, 13 Hon'ble Ministers and 181 members.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Assault on security prisoners in the Presidency Jail.

*94. **Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether he received telegraphic messages, dated the 25th April, 1943, from certain M.L.As. now lodged in the Presidency Jail severally and also jointly relating to assault on the security prisoners in the Presidency Jail?

(*b*) If the reply to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when he received those telegraphic messages and what action or actions did he take in respect of complaint made in them?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table the contents of the telegraphic messages?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether he received any other letter or letters from the members referred to in (*a*), and if so,

(*ii*) when;

(*iii*) what were the contents of those letters;

(*iv*) what action or actions he proposes to take on the complaints made in those letters; and

(*v*) whether any of the Hon'ble Ministers or the Inspector-General of Prisons visited the Presidency Jail after receiving the information of the incident of the 25th April, 1943.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) to (*d*) The subject-matter of this question was fully dealt with in my reply to question No. 439, dated the 23rd June, 1944, asked by Mr. Sibnath Banerjee and I refer the honourable member to the interpellations on that question.

Want of quorum.

The attention of Mr. Speaker being drawn by Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal that there was no quorum in the House, a count was taken and as there was no quorum, the bell was rung. Afterwards there was quorum in the House.

Regarding assault on security prisoners in Presidency Jail.

*95. **Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether one telegram, dated the 25th April, 1943, was sent by an M.L.A., and another telegram on the same date jointly by other M.L.As., all security prisoners in Presidency Jail, to the Hon'ble Home Minister informing him of the assault on security prisoners of Presidency Jail and praying for his personal intervention in the matter;

(*ii*) whether a letter was sent by Srijut Niharendu Dutt Majumdar on behalf of all the security prisoners in Presidency Jail to the Hon'ble Home Minister, confirming the two telegrams, dated the 25th April, 1943, referred to in (*a*), and giving further details and urging him for immediate intervention and relief;

(*iii*) whether another M.L.A. in reply to the Hon'ble Home Minister's letter, dated the 28th April, 1943, sent a letter to him on the 6th May, 1943, appealing to him to visit the security prisoners in Presidency Jail and ease the tension without delay;

(*iv*) whether in response to a desire expressed by the Hon'ble Home Minister through a memorandum of the Superintendent of Presidency Jail, dated the 10th May, 1943, the member referred to in (*a*) (*iii*) and another member sent on the 12th May, 1943, an urgent appeal to him either to personally take up the matter or expedite the trial in the Chief Presidency Magistrate's Court, along with a copy of the complaint filed before the Chief Presidency Magistrate by Srijut Anil Ghosh and Usha Roy and the relevant portions of the affidavit filed by Srijut Sibnath Banerjee, M.L.A., in the Hon'ble High Court in connection with his *Habeas Corpus* application;

(*v*) the respective dates when these appeals and representations were received by him;

(*vi*) what steps were taken by him regarding the respective representations;

(*vii*) whether he has visited the Presidency Jail even once after the incident on the 25th April, 1943; and

(*viii*) if not, the reasons thereof?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the Table copies of the documents referred to in (*i*), (*ii*), (*iii*) and (*iv*)?

(*c*) What steps does the Hon'ble Minister propose to take to redress the wrongs done to the security prisoners and reassure them of the safety of their life and limbs in Presidency Jail?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) to (*c*) The subject-matter of this question was fully dealt with in my reply to question No. 439, dated the 23rd June, 1944, asked by Mr. Sibnath Banerjee, and I refer the honourable member to the interpellations on that question.

Assault on security prisoners in the Presidency Jail.

*98. **Mr. NIHARENDU DUTT MAJUMDAR:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that—

(*i*) on the 27th March, 1943, a telegram was addressed to Government complaining of a tense situation in the Presidency Jail on account of certain incidents which took place the previous evening;

(*ii*) numerous complaints had been made by the security prisoners of the said jail regarding their treatment and the continued default of the Jail authorities in supplying articles permissible under the Bengal Security Prisoners Rules;

(*iii*) on the 22nd April last Inspector-General of Prisons visited the Presidency Jail and that serious allegations and complaints were made to him by the security prisoners relating to the inefficiency and incompetence of certain jail officials with the particular reference to one Additional Jailor;

(*iv*) on the 25th April an assault took place on the security prisoners of the Presidency Jail as a result of which about thirty prisoners were injured, of whom three had to be removed to the Medical College Hospitals;

(*v*) several complaints have been made by the security prisoners to Government relating to the incident of the 25th April, and making serious allegations against the aforesaid Additional Jailor and others; and

(*vi*) complaint has been made against certain punishment inflicted on Mr. Nishitha Nath Kundu, M.L.A., stopping—

(*A*) his interviews, and

(*B*) letter,

for the last two months?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government made any enquiry on the spot relating to—

(*i*) the incident of assault on the security prisoners which took place on the 25th April;

(*ii*) the incident complained of in the questioner's telegraphic communication of the 27th March as referred to above;

(*iii*) various other complaints regarding the treatment of the security prisoners and the administration of Bengal Security Prisoners Rules in the Presidency Jail; and

(*iv*) the complaint of punishment on Srijut Nishitha Nath Kundu as aforementioned?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the results of such enquiry?

(*d*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the reasons thereof?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether his attention has been drawn to the remarks of the Chief Presidency Magistrate in a recent judgment in the case of Mr. Mobarak Mazdoor relating to the conduct of the same Additional Jailor of the Presidency Jail?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is contemplating to hold any enquiry into the—

(*i*) incidents and state of affairs concerning the security prisoners in the Presidency Jail; and

(*ii*) conduct of the same Additional Jailor?

(*g*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be also pleased to state under what authority and how these prisoners are now being detained?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) to (*g*) The subject-matter of this question was fully dealt with in my reply to question No. 439, dated the 23rd June, 1944, asked by Mr. Sibnath Banerjee, and I refer the honourable member to the interpellations on that question.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(answer to which was laid on the table)

Alleged assault on security prisoners in the Presidency Jail.

32. Mr. SIBNATH BANERJEE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home (Jails) Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that in the evening of the 25th April, 1943, there was an assault on security prisoners in Presidency Jail by some of the Jail Officers, warders and ordinary prisoners;

(*ii*) that as a result about 30 of the security prisoners including Srijut Dharanath Bhattacherya, aged over 60 years, were seriously wounded;

(*iii*) that three of the security prisoners, viz., Srijuts Anil Ghosh, Usha Ranjan Roy and Murari Banerjee had to be removed to Medical College Hospitals that very night in a bleeding and unconscious condition; and

(*iv*) that the Hon'ble Home Minister was immediately informed of the incident?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the Hon'ble Home Minister has visited the jail after the incident; and

(*ii*) if so, what steps he has taken to find out the culprits and to punish them;

(*iii*) whether—

(1) Srijut Nishitha Nath Kundu, M.L.A., lodged a complaint to the Chief Presidency Magistrate on the 27th April, 1943, through the jail office,

(2) Srijut Satyesh Bhattacherya filed a case in the court of the Chief Presidency Magistrate on the 28th April, 1943, and

(3) Srijuts Anil Ghosh and Usha Ranjan Roy jointly filed a case on the 6th May, 1943, to the Chief Presidency Magistrate through the jail office in the presence of Rai Bahadur Jagabandhu Bhattacharya, Deputy Commissioner, Special Branch (2);

(*iv*) whether it is a fact that as no case was started by the Chief Presidency Magistrate a notice was given to the Hon'ble Home Minister on the 10th June, 1943, by Srijuts Satin Sen, Nishitha Nath Kundu, M.L.A., Sibnath Banerjee, M.L.A., and 10 other security prisoners that unless Government took steps they would be compelled to take upon themselves voluntary sufferings like fasting, etc., after the 25th June, 1943;

(*v*) whether on the 25th June, 1943, the Deputy Secretary informed the security prisoners that the cases filed before the Chief Presidency Magistrate were sent back to the court by Government for disposal;

(*vi*) whether many of the accused and the witnesses have already been transferred or released from this jail;

(*vii*) whether any case has been started up till now (3rd September, 1943); and

(*viii*) what are the reasons for the delay in starting the criminal case after the application was made?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: (*a*) and (*b*) The subject-matter of this question was fully dealt with in my reply to question No. 439, dated the 23rd June, 1944, asked by Mr. Sibnath Banerjee, and I refer the honourable member to the interpellations on that question.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Controlled price of rice, paddy and coal during 1941-42.

*138. **Mr. ATUL KRISHNA GHOSE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Civil Supplies Department be pleased to state what were the different controlled rates for—

(1) rice,

(2) paddy, and

(3) coal

during the financial years 1941-42 and 1942-43?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long the Government intend to control the rates of those articles?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of decontrolling the rates of those articles in the near future?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy): (*a*) Two statements are laid on the Table.

(*b*) Till normal conditions return.

(*c*) No.

Statement I, referred to in reply to clauses (a)(1) and (2) of starred question No. 136.

CONTROLLED RATES OF RICE AND PADDY DURING THE FINANCIAL YEARS 1941-42 AND 1942-43.

1941-42.

Prices of rice and paddy were not controlled during this year.

1942-43.

(*i*) From 1-4-1942 to 30-6-1942. Prices of rice and paddy were not controlled anywhere in Bengal.

(*ii*) From 1-7-1942 to 21-7-1942. Prices of rice and paddy were not controlled in the districts The prices of rice and not of paddy were controlled in Calcutta where they were as follows:—

	Wholesale.	Retail.
Coarse rice ..	Rs.5-12 per maund	.. Rs.6-4 per maund.
Medium rice ..	Rs.6-4 per maund	.. Rs.6-12 per maund.

(*iii*) From 22-7-1942 to 10-3-1943. Prices of both rice and paddy were controlled only in Calcutta where they were as follows:—

Rice.

	Wholesale ex-mill.	Wholesale ex-godown.	Retail.
Coarse rice ..	Rs.6-8 per maund.	Rs.6-12 per maund.	Rs.7-4 per maund; 3annas per seer.
Medium rice ..	Rs.7 per maund	Rs.7-4 per maund	Rs.7-12 per maund; 3annas 3pies per seer.

Paddy.

Price at mill rate.

Coarse paddy ..	Rs.3-10 per maund.
Medium paddy ..	Rs.4 per maund.

(*iv*) From 11-3-1943 to 31-3-1943. Prices of rice and paddy were not controlled either in Calcutta or in the districts.

Statement II, referred to in reply to clause (a) (3) of starred question No. 136 showing controlled prices of coal.

The statement relates to prices in Calcutta only. In the districts District Magistrates fix the price.

Coal.

1941-42.

Prices were not controlled.

1942-43.

Prices were not controlled till 19th January, 1943.

	Wholesale price per maund.	Retail price per maund.
	Rs. a.	Rs. a.
From 19-1-1943 to 2-2-1943 ..	1 4	1 6
From 3-2-1943 to 17-3-1943 ..	1 2	1 9
From 18-3-1943 to 7-5-1943 ..	1 0	1 6
From 8-5-1943 ..	1 2	1 8

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourable member pleased to state which dates these tables refer to?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Dates are already mentioned—years 1941-42, 1942-43.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the honourble member be pleased to state the dates and not the years covered by this statement?

Mr. ABDULLA-AL MAHMOOD: Dates are already there in the statement—from 1st April 1942, to 30th June, 1942, and so on.

Regarding special cells for persons arrested under Defence of India Rules.

*149. **Mr. SATYAPRIYA BANERJEE:** (1) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(a) that some persons arrested under rule 129 of the Defence of India Rules are now being committed to the custody of the Intelligence Branch and Special Branch and kept there for two months;

(b) that for this purpose special cells have been constructed in their offices in 13-15, Lord Sinha Road;

(c) that the area of these cells is 8′ × 8′;

(d) that two or more persons are some times kept in them;

(e) that they are very powerfully lighted during the whole of the night;

(f) that persons committed to custody there are not provided with beddings and mosquito nets;

(g) that they are kept within the cells for 24 hours;

(h) that food supplied there is extremely bad;

(i) that persons committed to custody there are not supplied with newspaper even at their own cost;

(j) that Sj. Arun Mukherjee, now detained at Dum Dum Central Jail, was arrested on the 27th August, 1944, and kept there for two months; and

(*k*) that he was subjected to interrogation for a continuous period of 72 hours at a stretch?

(2) If the answers to the above are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the area of 8′ ×8′ is sufficient for one person to live in not to speak of more than one;

(*b*) whether he contemplates making necessary arrangements for providing good food, necessary bedding and mosquito nets and other amenities of life including facilities for walking and supply of newspapers;

(*c*) whether the practice of interrogation for a continuous period of 72 hours or more is being followed with his knowledge and approval or whether the Intelligence Branch and Special Branch officers have been given full powers to practise these modern scientific methods of torture according to their will; and

(*d*) whether the Hon'ble Minister proposes to put a stop to these methods of torture?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (1) (*a*) Yes; they are detained for periods varying up to the maximum of two months.

(*b*) The Special Branch have no cells and all prisoners to be interrogated by that Branch are kept in the Lalbazar lock-ups. The construction of the cells in the Intelligence Branch was long overdue and has no connection with the Defence of India Rules.

(*c*) The area of each cubicle is 8′ 8½″ × 8′ 5″.

(*d*) Not more than two persons are ever kept in each cell and generally it is occupied by one person only.

(*e*) to (*i*) and (*k*) No.

(*j*) Yes.

(2) (*a*) The space provided is sufficient.

(*b*) to (*d*) Do not arise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: From answer (*b*) do I understand the honourable member to say that the Intelligence Branch has some special cells constructed at 13-15, Lord Sinha Road?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The Special Branch have no cells and all prisoners to be interrogated by that Branch are kept in the Lall Bazar lock-up.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*b*), may I point out that it has been stated that the Special Branch have no cells but the construction of the cells in the Intelligence Branch was long overdue and has no connection with the Defence of India Rules. The implication is that some cells have been constructed not by the Special Branch but by the Intelligence Branch. My question is, do I understand the Government to say that the Intelligence Branch—not the Special Branch—have some special cells constructed at 13-15, Lord Sinha Road?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The Special Branch, as I have stated, have no cells and the Intelligence Branch have some cells and the construction of them was overdue—the construction is being completed.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Sj. Arun Mukherjee who admittedly was confined in one of the Intelligence Branch cells was confined in connection with the Defence of India Rules or otherwise?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I refer the honourable member to my answer (*j*) where I have stated that Arun Mukherjee was arrested on the 27th August and kept in the Dum Dum Jail for two months.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Was he confined in one of these cells in connection with the Defence of India Rules—that is my question.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: The answer is clear——

Mr. SPEAKER: If it is clear, you need not ask anything.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: In that case why is it stated that the Intelligence Branch has no connection whatsoever with the Special Branch?

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot ask that. You put any other question if you like.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any other prisoner in connection with the Defence of India Rules has ever been confined in any of these cells for two months or so for the purpose of interrogation?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir; prisoners have been confined in the Intelligence Branch cells and the maximum period is two months. No prisoner has been confined for over that period.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: With reference to answer (*l*) (*e*) to (*i*) and (*k*), viz., "No", which is also the answer to question No. (*l*) (*g*), *viz.*, "that they are kept within the cells for 24 hours", and in view of his answer that "prisoners have been confined in the cells and the maximum period is two months", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the meaning of this answer "No"?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The answer "No" refers to questions (*l*) (*e*) to (*i*) and (*k*), *viz.*, the cells are very powerfully lighted during the whole of the night, etc. To all these three questions the answer is "No.".

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: The answer (*l*) (*e*) to (*i*) and (*k*) certainly includes the answer to question (*l*) (*g*) which runs thus "that they are kept within the cells for 24 hours". The answer is "No.", and in view of your admission that "they are detained in cells for periods varying up to the maximum of two months," I want to know what is the meaning of this "No.".

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: "No" means not continuously for 24 hours.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to clarify if these prisoners when kept locked up in those cells are allowed to go out at any time during day or night?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Certainly they are taken out of the cells, but they are not set at large.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*g*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state where else outside these cells these prisoners are allowed to go?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Other places provided for such prisoners.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether with regard to the supply of food to these

prisoners, the food that is supplied to the Division III prisoners is supplied to them or the food that is supplied to the Divisions I and II prisoners is supplied to them?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am unable to answer that off-hand. I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if they are taken out of their cells within 24 hours, *i.e.*, during day or night, where are they taken to from the cells?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: As I have said, there are other places meant for the security prisoners.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether for the purpose of interrogation the prisoners cannot be kept in jail custody and when necessary, taken out of the jail custody and interrogated?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of knowledge of law.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, it is a question of fact.

Mr. SPEAKER: In the answer it is said they are taken and not they can be taken, and your question is whether they can be taken. "Whether they are taken" is one thing and "whether they can be taken" is a different thing.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the inconvenience that is caused to these Special Branch and Intelligence Branch police for the purpose of interrogation if they are kept in jail custody?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The prisoners who are to be interrogated must be readily available and accessible. For convenience in the matter of interrogation and investigation, it is sometimes felt necessary to have these prisoners ready at hand.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: It is nothing but torture.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Is it a fact that these prisoners are detained in Lalbazar cells only to be oppressed in various ways by the Police to get admission from them?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir. That is not correct and had there been an iota of truth in any of these allegations, we would have heard more about them.

Mr. HARIPADA CHATTOPADHAYA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that keeping these prisoners in those cells is the worst form of torture that can be performed on any human being?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter of opinion.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to make it definitely clear whether these people are kept for these two months at Lalbazar as now admitted or in the Intelligence Branch cells at Lord Sinha Road?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: If they are to be dealt with by the Special Branch, then they can be locked up at the Lalbazar lock-up, and if by the Intelligence Branch then in the Lord Sinha Road.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any arrangement for the visitors inspecting such lock-ups when prisoners are in police custody?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the distance in miles between the Lalbazar lock-up and 14, Lord Sinha Road?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise. It is known to him and perhaps better known to you.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: We want to keep this on record in order to show that the plea "that these people may be easily accessible" is a false plea.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any official of the Police Department supervises these cells with a view to entertaining complaints with regard to torture and otherwise?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The question of supervision does not arise. If there is any complaint by any of the prisoners, he can present the grievance before the superior police officers.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Who are the superior police officers to whom the prisoners can complain and at what time?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot give the time, but if the prisoners submit any petitions, those petitions are put up before the superior officer, and when the superior officer is present there, they can make verbal complaints, if necessary.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Is there any provision for supplying these prisoners in the police custody with pen and papers?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am not very sure, but I presume that there is provision for supplying them with pen and paper.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to question 1(*e*) *viz.*, "whether they are very powerfully lighted", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give an idea about the power of the lights in the cells?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: May I submit, Sir, that it does arise.

Mr. SPEAKER: The power may be 32, 64, 100 or more. You cannot expect that answer to be given off-hand by him.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to question (*f*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether beddings and mosquito nets supplied to these people are really worthy of the class to which they belong?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know whether they are worthy of the class to which the prisoners belong, but I can say that good quality mosquito nets are supplied to them.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Minister or the Parliamentary Secretary ever visited this police lock-up?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know whether the Hon'ble Minister visited these cells or not, but I certainly have not visited.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Government consider the desirability of sending these prisoners to the nearest jail, I mean, Alipore Central Jail or the Presidency Jail immediately after their arrest?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already said that in order to facilitate investigation it is necessary to have the prisoners easily available for interrogation.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*k*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state for how many hours in the maximum any of these prisoners has been subjected to interrogation continuously?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Delay in the transmission of telegram and letters of Babu Subhash Chandra Sen, a security prisoner.

*150. **Babu KHAGENDRA NATH DAS GUPTA:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that security prisoner Babu Subhash Chandra Sen, at present detained in the Rajshahi Central Jail, received a pre-paid telegram from his mother on the 10th January, 1945, anxiously enquiring about his health; and

(*ii*) that immediately on the very date he submitted to the Jail Office, his reply purporting "in good health, sent several letters" to be transmitted by wire?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the date of actual transmission of that telegram to his mother?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that there had been unusual delay in sending the wire;

(*ii*) if so, the reason thereof; and

(*iii*) that he is not receiving his letters from home without being unusually delayed owing to the fact that the letters are being censored by the Deputy Inspector-General, Intelligence Branch, Bengal, instead of by the local Intelligence Branch?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*)(*iii*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for this exceptional treatment towards that security prisoner?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) 22nd January, 1945.

(*c*) and (*d*) Generally communications to and from security prisoners lodged in the Rajshahi Central Jail are censored by the District Superintendent of Police, Intelligence Branch, Rajshahi, under rule 22(*1*) of Bengal Security Prisoners Rules, 1940, a copy of which is in the Library, but those in respect of Babu Subhash Chandra Sen are censored by Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Intelligence Branch, as a special measure from security point of view and so some delay takes place in receiving these communications. The pre-paid telegram from his mother as mentioned in (*a*)(*i*) above, was, however, sent to Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Intelligence Branch, for censor through oversight.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*c*) and (*d*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when was this act of oversight detected?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether on the detection of the oversight any telegram was sent by the jail authorities to the mother of Subhas Chandra Sen, who was anxious for the information about her son's health?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any action has been taken against the people who were responsible for this act of oversight?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice. But the point has been explained to the authorities concerned that in such cases it is needless to refer the matter to the Deputy Inspector-General, Intelligence Branch, here in Calcutta.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state under what rule of the Bengal Security Prisoners' Rules this telegram was sent to the Deputy Inspector-General of Police?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Under rule 22(*1*).

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, the rule provides that communication from and to a security prisoner wil be censored before despatch by the District Police Officer. That is the rule. Now, under what rule this was not censored by the District Police Officer but sent to the Deputy Inspector-General, Intelligence Branch, here in Calcutta?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: If the honourable member will read rule 22(*1*) properly he will see that towards the end of this sub-rule there is a provision that in matters of doubt the District Police can refer the matter to the Deputy Inspecor-General, Intelligence Branch.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister please explain what does he mean by "matters of doubt"?

Mr. SPEAKER: The rule is clear: it does not require explaining. If you read the rules you will understand that if any doubt arises in the mind of the Superintendent he can refer the matter.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: We are conversant with the rules. Now, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how the delay was caused at the office of the Deputy Inspector-General of Police in the despatch of this telegram?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: There was no unusual delay in the despatch of the telegram after censor by the Deputy Inspector-General, Intelligence Branch. There was a few days' delay because the telegram was sent from Rajshahi to Calcutta and again from Calcutta to Rajshahi. That was the cause of delay.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to give us some idea about the time which he thinks to be due time for despatch of a communication and whether 10 days' delay in the case of a telegram is not thought by him to be an inordinate delay?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: This is a matter of opinion. In my opinion, ten days' delay is an unusual delay.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who were responsible for this oversight and delay?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already stated, the District Police at Rajshahi.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: What did the Government do when the notice of this question was sent to their department?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already explained that since the notice of this question was received Government asked for a report and Government have already made the position clear and pointed out that in the case of telegrams of a simple nature from a mother making an enquiry about the health of her son, no reference is necessary to the Deputy Inspector-General, Intelligence Branch, in Calcutta.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that Government think that in such cases reference is not necessary, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to depute a person who has some intelligence to understand that in such cases no reference is necessary?

Mr. SPEAKER: That qustion does not arise.

Grant of family allowance to Sj. Debendra Nath Sen, a security prisoner.

*151. **Dr. SURESH CHANDRA BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that Babu Dhirendra Nath Sen, a Government employee and the younger brother of Sj. Debendra Nath Sen, now a security prisoner at Dum Dum Central Jail, has, of late, died leaving behind his old mother, wife, three daughters and one son and there is none now to look after them; and

(*ii*) that the mother of Sj. Debendra Nath Sen has applied to the Government for a suitable allowance?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of sanctioning at an early date a suitable allowance to Sj. Debendra Nath Sen so that the family may be saved from starvation and death?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) An allowance of Rs.30 per month has been granted to the widowed sister-in-law of the security prisoner with effect from 1st August, 1944.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was the pay of the late Babu Dhirendra Nath Sen, a Government employee?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The security prisoner's brother Babu Dhirendra Nath Sen was a clerk in the Faridpur Juudge's Court on Rs. 50.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why no allowance has been granted to the old mother of the security prisoner and the deceased Government employee?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that there are six dependents including the old mother of the detenu and in view of the fact that Rs. 30 is quite inadequate for the purpose of maintenance of six dependents, does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable to immediately reconsider this and grant them suitable allowances?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: This security prisoner, before his arrest, was not earning anything and was not contributing anything towards the maintenance of the family. He has been in detention for a considerable length of time. His case originally was reviewed by the Government and in view of the liberal policy of the Government the amount of Rs. 30 was granted on compassionate ground.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what led the Government to think that where there is none to earn money for the familly this security prisoner being released will not earn anything but will make them starve?

Mr. SPEAKER: That question does not arise out of this.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is aware that Debendra Babu is a well-educated man and could earn a lot when his brother died?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Debendra Babu is an Honours Graduate in Economics?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: My information is that this security prisoner is a Master of Arts.

Construction of bridges at Kalihati and Pouli in the district of Mymensingh.

*152. **Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications and Works Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the bridges at Kalihati and Pouli on the Tangail-Mymensingh Board Road are not constructed yet?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the bridges are going to be constructed?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA (on behalf of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prasanna Pain): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) These two bridges have been included in the first five-year programme of Post-war Road Development plan.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that if these two bridges are completed, the connection between Mymensingh and Tangail will be fully established?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: I am aware of that.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the bar in not constructing and completing these two bridges now?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: On account of the difficulty in obtaining materials and also for the difficulty of transport it has been decided by the Road Board to postpone the work.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Is it a fact that in order to help the Mymensingh District Board with the income of these two ferries these bridges are not being constructed?

Mr. J. N. GUPTA: Not at all.

Levy of rent on rent-free land.

*153. **Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department aware that some land-holders and zamindars are levying rent on the rent-free lands of the Province?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many zamindars of the districts of Bengal have taken such steps to levy rent on rent-free lands?

(*c*) What steps, if any, have been taken by the Government against such landlords and zamindars?

MINISTER in charge of the REVENUE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea): (*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

Appointments in the Court of Wards Office, North Group, Chittagong.

*154. **Dr. SANAULLAH:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Revenue Department be pleased to state whether there are Hindu and Muslim employees according to communal ratio at present in the Court of Wards Office, North Group, Chittagong?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reason therefor?

(*c*) Do Government contemplate to reserve the next vacancies for the deficient community?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the numerical strength of the (1) Hindus, (2) Muslims, and (3) others;

(*ii*) whether the Muslim employees are allowed sufficient recess to say their midday prayers; and

(*iii*) if not, why not?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: (*a*) No.

(*b*) In the past the people available for executive and clerical appointments in zamindari work had been mostly Hindus, and when the Court of Wards had taken over any estate it had also to take over the existing staff in fairness to them.

(*c*) In making new appointments, the Court of Wards now gives due consideration to the principles of Communal Ratio Rules adopted by Government though they do not apply to Court of Wards appointments.

(*d*) (*i*) Hindus ... 89
Muslims ... 24
Scheduled Castes ... 2
Others ... 1

(*ii*) Yes.

(*iii*) Does not arise

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the designations of the two officers taken from the Scheduled Castes in that department?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I cannot say. I ask for notice.

Babu MADHUSUDHAN SARKAR: When the last appointment was made in that Court of Wards estate?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Different appointments were made from Managers down to chowkidars. I cannot say what appointment was made.

Babu MADHUSUDAN SARKAR: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the particular estate has any racial prejudice in the matter of appointing officers?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Certainly the Court of Wards has no racial prejudice, nor that particular estate.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if in the selection of particular officer or officers the community to which the proprietor of the estate belongs is also taken into consideration?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: So far as I am aware, it is not.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that complaints have been made to Government inviting their attention to persons being appointed under the Court of Wards to administer properties with *debottar* and deities, interests therein where persons belonging to a different community cannot look after such interests as may be liked by the proprietors?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: No such complaint has ever reached me.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the proportion of estates belonging to Hindus and Muslims, respectively, under Court of Wards management?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I want notice.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় অবগত আছেন কি যে কোর্ট অব্ ওয়ার্ডের ক্লার্কেরা নামাজের ছুটী না পাওয়ায় চাকরী ছাড়িতে বাধ্য হইতেছে?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: গভর্ণমেণ্ট এরূপ কোন সংবাদ পান নি।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: নামাজের ছুটী দেওয়ার জন্য কোর্ট অব ওয়ার্ডের ম্যানেজারকে গভর্ণমেণ্ট নির্দ্দেশ দিবেন কি?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: আমি questionটা বুঝতে পারলাম না।

Mr. SPEAKER: আপনি ভাল কোরে আর একবার বলুন।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: প্রত্যেক শুক্রবার জুম্মার নামাজের জন্য দেড় ঘণ্টা ছুটী দিবার বিধান করা হইয়াছে তদনুসারে মুসলমান কর্ম্মচারীদের ছুটী দিবার জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট উপদেশ দিবেন কি?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: কোর্ট অব ওয়ার্ডের কর্ম্মচারীরা প্রত্যেক শুক্রবার নমাজ পড়িবার জন্য আবশ্যকমত সময় পেয়ে থাকেন।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: কোর্ট অব ওয়ার্ডের ছুটী দেওয়া এবং appointment করা কালেক্টরের নিজের হাতে কি?

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: কর্ম্মচারীদের ছুটী সব সময়ই দেওয়া এবং নূতন কর্ম্মচারী নিয়োগ সাধারণতঃ স্থানীয় কোর্ট অব ওয়ার্ডের ভারপ্রাপ্ত রাজকর্ম্মচারীর পরামর্শ মত বোর্ড অব রেভিনিউ করেন।

Conciliation of labour disputes in Bengal.

*155. **Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Labour Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) what is the machinery set up by the Government of Bengal to—

(*a*) secure conciliation in regard to labour disputes, and

(*b*) ensure quick disposal of matters arising out of labour unrest, including adjudication of disputes between employees and employers;

(*ii*) what are the various offices held by the Labour Commissioner, Bengal, and what are the functions attached to each office;

(*iii*) whether it is a fact that considerable delay has been experienced in the disposal of labour disputes in the Province during 1944;

(*iv*) whether it is a fact that the machinery for adjudication also has been found to be very slow in its work in 1944; and

(*v*) the claims of organised labour unions or associations to which the attention of the Labour Department had been drawn during the year 1944, showing for each—

(*a*) the date when the matter was first brought to Government's notice,

(*b*) the date when formal application for conciliation or adjudication as the case may be, was received by the Labour Commissioner, Bengal, or his office,

(*c*) the dates when conciliation procedure was commenced and was concluded,

(*d*) the date when the matter was referred to adjudication, if any,

(*e*) the date or dates when adjudication hearings were held,

(*f*) the date when adjudication award, if any, was given,

(*g*) the date when Government order on the adjudication order was issued,

(*h*) the date when the employer reported having given effect to the Government order regarding conciliation or adjudication, and

(*i*) the number of deputations that waited on the Labour Department for each case?

MINISTER in-charge of the LABOUR DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. K. Shahabuddin): (*i*) The Labour Commissioner assisted by his staff consisting of one Deputy Labour Commissioner, 3 Assistant Labour Commissioners and 9 Labour Officers try to settle trade disputes through conciliation. Only when attempts at conciliation fail disputes are referred to adjudication under rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules. Disputes are referred for adjudication to Mr. R. Gupta, I.C.S., who is an experienced Judicial Officer.

(*ii*) The Labour Commissioner is also the Registrar of Trade Unions, in which capacity he administers the Trade Union Act. At present he also holds the following offices temporarily:—

(1) Chairman, National Service Labour Tribunal, Bengal, in which capacity he administers the National Service (Technical Personnel) Ordinance, 1940, and is in charge of the Technical Training Scheme.

(2) Officer in charge, Post-Raid Information Service.

(3) Chairman, Executive Committee of the Provincial Unskilled Labour Supply Committee.

(*iii*) Some delay there has been mainly on account of the complex nature of the question requiring consideration and partly on account of shortage of staff. Proposals to remedy the latter are under consideration.

(*iv*) No.

(*v*) Government have no particulars of organised labour unions apart from those under the Trade Unions Act. The question is vague and therefore cannot be answered.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Has the attention of the Government been drawn to the bitter complaint made by Srijut Mrinal Kanti Bose, President of the All-India Trade Union Congress, and published in the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* on 6th February, 1945, complaining against the lethargy of the Bengal Government in the matter of settlement of labour disputes?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I would refer the honourable member to my answer (*iii*).

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: My question is whether Government's attention has been drawn to the complaint made bitterly by the President of the All-India Trade Union Congress which was published in the press on the 6th February?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, there are two parts to this question. I answered the latter part that there has been some delay. Yes, my attention was drawn. I refer the honourable member to my answer (*iii*).

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, since his attention was drawn to this publication, what action has been taken to improve the working of the Labour Department in the matter of settlement of labour disputes?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: As I have already stated, the number of Labour Officers is only 9 and there is one Deputy Labour Commissioner and 3 Assistant Labour Commissioners. I am taking necessary steps to strengthen the staff and I have been assured by the officers of the Labour Department that they will take all necessary steps so that the matter may not be unnecessarily delayed.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, out of these five posts held by the Labour Commissioner at the present moment, what are his hours of attendance at difference offices?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: There are no fixed hours of attendance in these offices. He does it according to the requirements of the offices and the time available to him.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In view of the statement made that there is a shortage of staff, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the Labour Commissioner is saddled with four other offices?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I have already stated that I am taking steps to strengthen the staff.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: With reference to answer (*iii*) that "Some delay there has been", will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the degree or nature of delay indicated therein?

Mr. SPEAKER: I disallow that question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is ware that in the matter of reference to conciliation there have been cases hanging fire for more than a year and a half?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khawaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I am not aware of that. If a particular case is brought to my notice, I will certainly have it enquired into.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that nearly 3 lakh workers of the jute industry submitted a petition in August, 1943, signed by 50,309 workers and supported by 23 unions and there have been numerous deputations and collective and individual representations and that the petition was partially gone into on December 2, 1944, and is still hanging fire?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Does this question arise at all?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You wanted a particular case and so I have put this question.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Shahabuddin, you give whatever answer you can.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: There is only one statement of Dr. Sanyal which I want to correct. He says 3 lakh jute workers of whom 50,000 signed the petition. I do not know how he claims that 50,000 people were representing 3 lakh workers. In any case, I will have the matter enquired into.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in regard to adjudication there have been cases referred to the adjudicator as early as April, 1944, and the first week of May, 1944. I am referring to Bharatia Electric Steel Company involving 1,650 workers approximately which was referred to adjudication in the first week of September after 16 deputations waited on Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot make a question so long. You are putting a lot of facts in your question. It cannot be answered in that way.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in regard to Bharatia Electric Steel Company, Steel Products, Ltd., of Kidderpore, India Electric Works, Behala——

Mr. SPEAKER: Please put your questions one after another.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: All right, Sir. With regard to Bharatia Electric Steel Company, reference was made in the first week of September and the award was published on 4th January, 1945, after 20 deputations waited and the award has not been finally disposed of and still further enquiry is supposed to be made regarding dearness allowance.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, how many points have been introduced in one question. If I start replying it will be like a speech.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state at what stage the representation for adjudication made by the workers of Bharatia Electric Steel Company now remains?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in regard to the steel products of Kidderpore involving 1,200 workers whose application for adjudication was made in July, 1944, and reference was made in the first week of September, 1944, no award has yet been published?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: The papers are not readily available to give an answer to this question.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that in regard to the India Electric Works, and also the Saxby and Farmers, Ltd., Entally, there have been applications for adjudication, reference has been made and there has been as yet no final decision about adjudication?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I am afraid I cannot answer this question without previous notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that there is only one adjudicator appointed and that gentleman also is the Chief Presidency Magistrate of Calcutta having numerous onerous duties to perform?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Yes, Sir. I am taking steps, so that Mr. Gupta may be relieved from his onerous duties as Chief Presidency Magistrate and may be able to give more time to this adjudication work.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that delay occurs, because of the absence of assessors to advise the adjudicator as has been followed in other provinces?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: No, Sir. I do not agree with this contention of Dr. Sanyal.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what time-limit has been fixed by the Department of Labour, Bengal Goernment, for seeking decision through conciliation before a case is referred to adjudication? How long do they wait?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: There is no time-limit fixed. It is left to the discretion of the Labour Commissioner to see how the matter is proceeding, what are the chances and expectation of conciliation and when he finds that the matter has reached a stage when it should be referred he recommends a reference.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he admits that the Labour Commissioner is overburdened with work to an extent that he is unable to attend to his duties as Labour Commissioner with reasonable expedition?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: No, Sir. I do not admit that, but as I have said I am taking steps to strengthen the staff.

Mr. A. F. STARK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is considering the desirability of relieving the Labour Commissioner of his other offices as Chairman, National Service Labour Tribunal, Officer-in-charge, Post-Raid Information Service and Chairman, Executive Committee of the Provincial Unskilled Labour Supply Committee?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Yes, Sir.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Has Government laid down any principle in regard to the approach for conciliation and has it laid down any rules for guidance of the officers to enable them to make references after a reasonable time elapses?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: There is no hard and fast rule laid down, but the general principle of the matter is taken into consideration by the Labour Commissioner and he deals with the matter according to the general principle of trade disputes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the case of conciliation in connection with Braithwaite & Co., Ltd., Kidderpore, referred to the Labour Commissioner as early as January, 1944, has still not been referred to adjudication and no conciliation has as yet been made?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I am not in a position to answer either way without previous notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that with regard to Joy Engineering Company involving nearly 2,000 workers application for adjudication was made as early as June 30, 1944, 30 deputations waited upon the Labour Commissioner and his assistants and no conciliation has been reached, nor any adjudication referred to?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khawaja SHAHABUDDIN: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that in the matter of referring to adjudication the framing of issues is done by the Labour Commissioner's office without consultation with the complainants and even issues quite out of date and irrelevant are put up before the trying Magistrates?

Mr. SPEAKER: You have put two questions at a time. Put the first part first.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it a fact that the framing of issues is done by the Labour Commissioner's office without reference to the complainant?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I am not sure whether a reference is made to the complainant because obviously the matter has been pending before the Labour Commissioner who has been trying to bring about a conciliation and he knows the issues involved and consequently has drawn up the terms of reference made on the basis of information available to him.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that there have been numerous cases in which the issues referred to the adjudicator are out of date and quite out of keeping with the correct position?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I am not aware.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that the procedure in the Adjudication Court does not follow the normal procedure in civil or criminal courts but that a special procedure is adopted by the Adjudicator?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Obviously it is not a civil court.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if any rules of procedure have been laid down or it is entirely left to the whim of the Adjudicator?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, the Adjudicator, as I have already said, is an experienced judicial officer and naturally we rely on his decision and discretion.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Chief Presidency Magistrate as Adjuudicator made his decision in respect of the workers of the Calcutta Tramway Company, Limited, but no effect has been given as yet?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: According to my information it has been substantially implemented.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state to what extent his decision has been implemented?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I have said, substantially.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that with regard to the Tramways Co., a special enquiry was subsequently set up which is still under the consideration of the Adjudicator?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I am not aware of it and I am sorry to say that for a definite reply I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the adjudicator's award is not communicated to the party concerned, particularly to the complainants *in toto*?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: What do you mean by "*in toto*"?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: "*In toto*" means fully and wholly and not partly.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: The decision is always communicated.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that in a number of cases the decisions of the

adjudicator also are not fully communicated to the complainant unless and until Government comes to some decision as to which part of it should be communicated?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: No, Sir. The decision of the adjudicator which is given effect to is published.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what measure Government have taken to see that the recommendation of the adjudicator as approved by Government for enforcement and communicated to the employer concerned is duly given effect to?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Whenever we receive a complaint of non-implementation of the decision of the adjudicator Government takes the necessary steps through the Labour Commissioner to see that they are implemented.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What are those steps?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: We direct the party concerned to implement it and Government has got the power to enforce it also by definite orders. I am not sure, but I am speaking from memory, and I think in one or two cases we did take steps in that direction.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that in regard to the Calcutta Tramways Company, Limited, the award has not yet been implemented in regard to canteens and time-table and leave to workers on the ground that they have not been sufficiently clarified?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Obviously I have stated that is has been substantially implemented but for detailed information I ask for notice.

Mr. JOGESH CHANDRA GUPTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the particulars about the substantial effect that has been given?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I ask for notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that there have been cases of awards which have been given partial effect with vital issues such as dearness allowance withheld for further examination?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I ask for notice because the particulars are not with me.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I have as a matter of fact given notice that the Hon'ble Minister has tried to subterfuge by avoiding to give information.

With reference to answer (*v*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the organised labour unions as it is understood, namely, unions registered under the Trade Unions Act I mean, the information sought regarding them could not be furnished?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I have nothing further to add to my answer.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what he means by the question being vague? In what respect it has been vague?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a question of opinion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government maintains any register of claims or complaints

put in by various labour organisations or individual labourers to the Labour Commissioner claiming conciliation or adjudication in their disputes?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: No, Sir, not in the Government department but it may be maintained in the Labour Department.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if that register maintained by the Labour Commissioner shows the date of the complaint and the date on which the complaint has been lodged, the date on which the complaint has been sent for conciliation and the date on which the award is obtained as well as the date on which the award is given effect to?

Mr. SPEAKER: The Minister does not say that it is kept in the Labour Commissioner's office; he says that it may be kept there, and he is not sure.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why Government do not maintain a register to watch the progress of handling of labour disputes?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Government do not consider it necessary because the Labour Commissioner's department is there.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Labour Commissioner's department is not a Government department?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is a subordinate department; that you know.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, his answer is much too vague and I want to know whether it is a Government department.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I have explained that these are not maintained in the Secretariat and that for detailed information I must have notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if Government is considering the desirability of laying down some definite rules prescribing the time within which, if conciliation is not achieved, cases of disputes must go to adjudication?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: No, Sir. Government do not consider it desirable to fix a time-limit and as far as principle is concerned Government is considering the matter.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is it the policy of the present Government to force labourers to go on strike actually and dislocate war effort and other industrial work before the matter is taken to adjudication?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Rather it is quite the contrary which the Government has in mind.

Mr. SPEAKER: Question time over. The House stands adjourned for fifteen minutes for prayer.

(The House was adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Allotment of extra time for the discussion on Supplementary Budget Demands.

Mr. SPEAKER: Supplementary Budget demand for grant 54—Famine. The Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea.

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, before you pass on to this item regarding discussion of cut motions on the supplementary grants, may I enquire from you whether the Government have re-considered their decision of yesterday and are prepared to give the Opposition the solace of at least having an opportunity of a full and free discussion of the questions that arise out of these demands. The point was made abundantly clear yesterday and as the attitude of the Government was most unsympathetic, the Opposition had no other alternative but to walk out of the Assembly in protest. Sir, we are prepared to take part in the discussions, carry on the discussions and the proceedings in an atmosphere free from any passion or prejudice and we all only want an opportunity of placing our view-point before this House. Are the Government prepared to give us that opportunity and are they prepared to reconsider their attitude of yesterday?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, I think that we have tried to meet the demand of the Opposition as far as possible. As you are well aware, in the discussion in your chamber it was pointed out that it was possible to have half an hour from question time for two days and yesterday I even offered that an additional day might be set apart for discussion on Friday.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: This is nothing new. That is a non-official day. Give us any other day.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: As I have already pointed out, that is not possible. There is no other date that is available and it will cause inconvenience to members. I have pointed out the difficulties in the way and if it was possible to do anything, Government would have been very glad to meet their wishes, but I do not think, in view of the circumstances—as far as the convenience of the members and past practice are concerned—it is possible to do anything further.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I in the circumstances invite your attention to the items that we propose to take up today —all items covering rehabilitation programmes including Famine, Medical and Public Health, Agriculture, Irrigation and Industries, six items in regard to each of which the Opposition and I suppose some members of the Government also feel very strongly about bungling and maladministration, corruption and nepotism freely going on in the Government departments. We feel that the discussions thereon should be permitted as long and for as reasonable a time as possible and it is entirely within your right to allow that. Sir, we would like you to indicate what time you are going to allot for each of these six items and what time you are going to allot for each motion under every head, to indicate in all what would be the time that may be available to us and to the Government Ministers for reply. I would leave it to you to first give us an indication and then we shall decide whether any useful purpose would be served by continuing this debate. The thing is entirely in your hands. You can, if you like, sit the whole night. These are important matters where the maladministration is colossal and the Famine Enquiry Committee has demonstrated to the satisfaction not merely of one member or two members but has unanimously been satisfied of maladministration and bungling in regard to the famine administration. In view of that I claim that it is entirely in your hands to give us more time irrespective of what Government may say. We ask you to rise up to the occasion and deal with the matter in all fairness that you are reputed to possess.

Mr. SPEAKER: I can quite appreciate the desire of the Opposition to have a prolonged discussion but at the same time I have got to look to the convenience of the members.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Can you give us the time—a time-table of your programme?

Mr. SPEAKER: I am coming to that. If the majority of the members be unwilling to sit beyond the hours for which we generally sit——

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Why not earlier?

Mr. SPEAKER: You do not realise the difficulty. It is not in my power.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Therefore, you can compel them to sit longer hours.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is in your power to sit longer hours.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is in my power. But the whole trouble is that the majority of the members say that they are not going to sit for longer hours —they are not willing to sit for longer hours.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Are we to understand that you are able only to accommodate the majority and not the minority?

Mr. SYED BADRUDDOJA: Sir, it does not suit their convenience to sit longer hours, but if it suits our convenience to discuss certain proposals which vitally affect the interests of the province, it is in your discretion to extend the time and if they are unreasonable and obstinate, it does not follow that the Opposition should be deprived of their right to discuss certain proposals of far-reaching importance to the whole province.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Sir, are you to be told in the year 1945 that if accommodation is needed, it is only for the Opposition in connection with budget grants?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Have the whole of Friday for discussion.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Friday is not a Government day.

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: Sir, I want to make the point clear. It is not for the purpose of prolonged discussion that we want an opportunity more than what is given to us in order to discuss these questions in greater detail. So far as the Ministers are concerned, Sir, I shall be frank; I have an idea that they have the skin of a rhinoceros and no attack will have effect on them. Their supporters have got the skin of a crocodile. (Laughter.) Then, Sir, what I want to submit is this. If it was possible for them to misappropriate Rs. 57 crores, cannot they give us 57 minutes? (Cries of "Hear, hear" from the Opposition benches.)

Mr. SPEAKER: What I like to tell the Opposition is simply this. If they really want to take part, I shall try my best to accommodate them.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: That is rather vague.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will you give us your time-table, Sir? Let us see if you have got any fairer idea.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not a question of fairness. It is a budget discussion. Honourable members all know that if we want to discuss a budget thoroughly and from all points it cannot possibly be finished in less than two months' time. (Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: That is only an argument.) But here certain things have got to be done by a certain time. All that I can do is to sit a longer time. That is all that I can do. I cannot do anything more.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You can extend the time.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is exactly what I was proposing.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Sir, have you noticed that the supplementary estimates amount to five times the ordinary budget?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have told you definitely that I will try to accommodate you as far as possible.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What is your time-table?

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot tie down my own hands.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You cannot compel us to proceed.

Mr. SPEAKER: If you cannot rely on my assurance——

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: But you say that you are helpless.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, we put it to you definitely and categorically whether you are prepared to give us any idea of the closing time to-night.

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us see.
(Cries of "why, why" from the Opposition benches.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We have seen that you have meekly submitted to the Leader of the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, please. It is a reflection on the Chair and I am the last person to tolerate any reflection on the Chair.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: You are reflecting on yourself. You are saying that you are helpless.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Can you give us an idea as to what time-table you will follow?

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal, will you kindly withdraw that expression?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: It is a statement of fact. It was your own admission. You said: "If the majority do not like I can't help".

Mr. SPEAKER: It is a reflection on the Chair.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL It is a statement of fact.

Mr. SPEAKER: Are you prepared to withdraw it?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You yourself have admitted that you have to submit to the wishes of the majority. You have yourself said that you are helpless. I only repeated your own words.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is not that. Meekly submitting is one thing and considering a fact is quite a different thing.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You have generously submitted——

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot criticise the Chair in that way. You ought to know that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What word is unparliamentary?

Mr. SPEAKER: Whether it is parliamentary or not, it is most unfortunate that you are in the habit of casting reflections on the Chair every now and then and sometimes you make reflections and then wriggle out and say "I withdraw".

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I am not withdrawing that. Why do you put it in my mouth? I say that it is your own admisison. It is a statement of fact.

Mr. SPEAKER: I want to know whether you are going to withdraw that expression.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Which expression?

Mr. SPEAKER: That I have meekly submitted.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why should I withdraw?

Mr. SPEAKER: Whether you are going to withdraw it or not that is the question.

Mr. SYED BADRUDDOJA: Sir, he did not mean any reflection on the Chair.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will you give me another paraphrase of that word?

Mr. SPEAKER: That again is insulting the Chair, Dr. Sanyal. It is my painful duty to remind the House as to on how many occasions reflections have been made by Dr. Sanyal on the Chair. In the interests of the dignity of the House, it is necessary that reflections should never be made against the Chair. It may be that the Chair is represented by a human being who is liable to err and, in all probability, errs very often, but still to maintain the dignity of the Chair, to maintain the dignity of every member of the House, it is essential that the Chair should be obeyed and respected. If I have ever committed any grievous wrong, and I say that I have never consciously committed any grievous wrong, I shall ever be ready to vacate the Chair for a worthier man. I have felt in my heart of hearts that in casting reflections on the Chair members forget that they are casting reflections on themselves and upon the entire people of the province. I hope that this will be realised.

Speaking for myself, my conduct may have been taken as meek submission to the Government by Dr. Sanyal. It might have been interpreted in that way, but if that be his opinion I am sure this House will not tolerate that such an opinion against the Chair should be expressed openly in this House. What I really desire is that members should maintain the dignity of the Chair and in maintaining the dignity if I ever commit any wrong I shall be glad if any member approaches me in my Chamber and tells me that such and such thing was not to his liking, so that I may have an opportunity of correcting myself and understanding the position. But if in the House, this kind of reflection is made in this way, it becomes intolerable for the Chair to remain here, and I for myself make it perfectly clear that I would rather resign than allow this sort of reflection on the Chair. I won't tolerate it any longer. If the House desires it I have no option. The proper parliamentary course well known to everybody is that even where the Speaker errs except where he errs grievously the dignity of the Chair should be maintained. If the whole House thinks that the Speaker has erred grievously then he should vacate in favour of another man who likes to stick to his office. That is the real position.

I would request Dr. Sanyal and Mr. Roy, his leader, to say that if they consider this to be a reflection it must be withdrawn. May I ask Mr. Roy to let me know his opinion whether he considers this to be a reflection or not and if he considers it to be a reflection what course he suggests?

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid (cries of "He is afraid!" from the Coalition Benches). I had no intention to get up. If I have got up it is in response to the request by the Speaker, and that interjection was perfectly impertinent.

Mr. Speaker, I am afraid, the entire Opposition is feeling a sense of grave grievance, and if I may say so with due respect to your position you are not doing anything to allay that excitement. Yesterday it was certainly within your power to extend the time: it did not depend upon the Government, but you were not pleased to do so. Today the Leader of the Opposition is making that request. After all, what did we want? We wanted

to hear from you how long you are prepared to sit. We wanted to know the exact time-table so that we could arrange our speeches on the cut motions accordingly. Having failed to get that assurance from you, what can we do? So far as the expression is concerned, I am perfectly sure Dr. Sanyal did not mean any reflection on the Chair. More than that I am not prepared to say.

Mr. SPEAKER: It has been stated that I am not doing anything to allay the grievance of the Opposition. The Opposition has got its grievance and the Opposition will always have its grievance.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: No, no.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: That is a reflection upon the Opposition.

Mr. SPEAKER: I was going to say——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: You cannot make any reflection on the Opposition. Even the Speaker must behave properly.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you kindly allow me to finish? I was going to say something which you do not allow me to. What can I do? Just listen to what I am going to say. If today the party in power goes over to the other side they will perhaps behave exactly in the same way as you are doing. That is what I was going to say. I did not say that you have done anything wrong but you had not had the patience to hear me. If today the party in power crosses over to the other side for any reason and you have the power——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Then we shall be right and they will be wrong.

Mr. SPEAKER: They will perhaps clamour and ask for more time. There is every reason to believe that, and therefore I do not say that when you are asking for more time you are asking for something which is absolutely wrong or unreasonable. You asked me yesterday to sit for longer hours. I said, there had been objection from the other side—the majority—because they felt that they would be inconvenienced. Still I said, I would try my best to accommodate you as far as practicable.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: That is nothing.

Mr. SPEAKER: You say that is nothing.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Your time-limit is to meet the Government's desire.

(At this stage there was loud noise in the House.)

Mr. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned for 15 minutes.

(The House was accordingly adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I regret that the course of events earlier this evening has taken a turn as if the Opposition has a grievance against you. Our grievance has all along been against the Government, particularly against the attitude taken up by the Leader of the House in regard to the provision of time for a reasonable debate. Incidentally, you were dragged in as the custodian of the House because we felt that it was within your competence to extend the time for the night's debate at least. I did not mean any reflection on the Chair when I used the term "meek submission" and I can assure you, Sir, that nobody—and I claim—nobody is so anxious to uphold the dignity of the Chair in this House as I am, of the Speaker of the Assembly as against the Government

which is trying to reduce the Assembly Department into a Government Department. Not once or twice but hundred times, I have drawn your attention to the most unfair attitude taken up by the Government regarding the Assembly Department and I have begged of you to stand up and to uphold the dignity of the Assembly and its Department both in regard to its functioning as an independent Department of the Legislature and in regard to its functioning with officers free from interference by Government. Unfortunately, Sir, things as we desire have not been so far complied with. You know my anxiety to keep you independent of the Government and to stand up with you against the Government and I do submit that in this matter where we have to fight the Government to maintain the dignity of this House, the whole Opposition will stand behind you as one man. Sir, I want to strengthen your hands and if I had unwittingly used terms which you felt aggrieved about, it was only to spur you up to exercise your right within your jurisdiction and to ginger you up sufficiently to act independently of the Government. We demand that you exercise your right now and give us a definite time for each of these six heads which will be taken up tonight, so that we may understand whether you in your generosity and within your power are prepared to exercise your right in the interests of the Opposition and in the interests of a fair and reasonable debate.

Mr. SPEAKER: Dr. Sanyal's statement that he never intended any reflection on the Chair is certainly accepted by me and I am glad to hear that he fully appreciates the dignity of the House and the dignity of the Chair. With regard to the question of time it is clear that we have lost practically one hour.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: Bengal has lost so many sons and daughters. It does not matter if one hour is lost.

Mr. SPEAKER: I assure you that I will try my best to extend the time tonight and I shall, personally speaking, not mind sitting the whole night. I shall allow members to speak as long as they like.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What we want to know is the time-limit for each item.

Mr. SPEAKER: You go on speaking. I shall not stop any one.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: In spite of your best intentions and anxiety to accommodate the Opposition, we are in the same mud as we were before. We want to have a full dress debate and you must make the Government understand that the Opposition requires such length of time and if the Government agrees to that, it not only accommodates the Opposition but it also respects the dignity of the Chair which the Government is bound to do. If the Government fails in its duty we shall decide what we ought to do and if you cannot help us, we shall help ourselves.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is in my power to sit for longer hours and I am prepared to sit for longer hours.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What is the programme?

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a matter for the House. I leave it entirely to you.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May we suggest, Sir, in view of the assurance given by you, that we do sit up to 10 p.m. and that the debate should, for each demand, be as follows:—

Famine	...	up to 7 p.m.
Medical & Public Health	...	7 to 8 p.m.
Agriculture	...	8 to 9 p.m.
Irrigation	...	9 to 9-30 p.m.
Industries	...	9-30 to 10 p.m.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: And Dr. Sanyal's point of order from 10 to 12 p.m.

Mr. SASANKA SEKHAR SANYAL: We must have four hours debate whenever we begin.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, let us have no more waste of time!

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Physician, heal thyself!

Mr. SPEAKER: So far as I am concerned, I am prepared to sit up to 10 p.m.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We want to make it clear that you had yesterday put two important items to vote which you were not bound to in view of the break that had happened. You were required under the rules to put them to vote only when the guillotine fell. But you took it into your own hands to put certain very major demands to vote yesterday. We would like to know, following that position, whether you are going to finish the debate on the first item, put it to vote and then proceed to the second item and so on. We would like to have the position clarified. Unless that is done, it is no use giving us vague assurances.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: I thought that the Leader of the House wanted to say something. We want to know what is his reply to our request that the House should sit up to 10 p.m.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: We are against sitting beyond 7-30 p.m. We are agreeable to the curtailment of the question time by half an hour and we are also agreeable to allot Friday for this discussion. But so far as sitting beyond 7-30 p.m. is concerned, we are against it because it affects the convenience of the majority of the members.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: In view of the reply given by the Leader of the House, it seems that you are really helpless to make the Government obey you or accept the suggestion made in the House. In the circumstances, we are constrained to say that we are not going to take any more part in this mock debate.

Mr. A. K. FAZLUL HUQ: They have misappropriated over Rs.50 crores. Let them enjoy it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We also wish to make it clear that we are not going to give any lists of selected cut motions at the time of Budget discussion. We have given notices of our cut motions. We shall be free to take up any motion we like. I hope you will not insist on our producing to you any lists of selected cut motions.

(The Opposition members then walked out.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us now proceed with the business.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

54—Famine.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.1,69,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" during the current year.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,69,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about situation of central work houses of Anwara and Bankshali

police-stations in the district of Chittagong attached to the emergency hospitals in Tailardwip and Bailchari, respectively, in conformity with Government circular which are more central.

I also beg to move that the demand of Rs. 1,69,00,000 for expendifure under the head "54—Famine" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about starting of at least one orphanage in every police-station in the Chittagong Division which is mostly affected by war.

I also beg to move that the demand of Rs.1,69,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" during the current year be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about making sufficient grant to Kadam Mobarak, Lamabazar and Bailchari (Yatim Khana) orphanages in Chittagong.

I further beg to move that the demand of Rs.1,69,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" during the current year be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about the partiality of Ministers in making unnecessary huge grant to Faridpur Yatim Khana in Dacca Division.

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমার নামে যে ১৪১-৪২-৪৩ এবং ১৪৭ নং মোশন আছে আমি সেইগুলি একসঙ্গে formally move করছি। সঙ্গে সঙ্গে আমি গভর্ণমেণ্ট যে অন্যায়, অবিচার এবং অত্যাচার করছেন সে সম্বন্ধে কয়েকটী বিষয়—আজ oppositionএর কেহ এখানে নাই বটে কিন্তু তাঁহাদের মত আমি এখানে দেখাইব। এই দুর্দিনেও ইঁহারা ভারত গভর্ণমেণ্ট হইতে ১০ কোটি টাকা প্রাপ্ত হইয়াছেন; এই সঙ্গে বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টকে আরও ১০ কোটি টাকার ডায় গ্রহণের জন্য নির্দ্দেশ দিয়াছেন। এত টাকার ব্যবস্থা করা হ'লেও উহার ব্যয়ের সম্বন্ধে যে দুর্নীতি সে বিষয়ে আমি বলিতেছি।

ফরিদপুরে এতিমখানার দ্বার উদ্‌ঘাটন করিবার জন্য গভর্ণর বাহাদুরকে লইয়া যাওয়া হয়। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী তমিজুদ্দীন খাঁ সাহেব উপস্থিত হইতে না পারায় শিক্ষা বিভাগের ডিরেক্টর Mr. J. M. Bottomley অভিনন্দন পাঠ করেন। ফরিদপুরের সেই নূতন এতিমখানার জন্য ৩,২৬,৬৫০ টাকা ব্যয় করা হইয়াছে এবং প্রত্যেক বছর ৩,১৩,৯৬৮৲ টাকা ব্যয় বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। যদি একটি নূতন এতিমখানার জন্য ৩,১৩,৯৬৮৲ টাকার ব্যবস্থা হইয়া থাকে, তাহা হইলে পুরাতন এতিমখানা যাহা বাংলা দেশের বহু স্থানে রহিয়াছে, যেমন চট্টগ্রামের এতিমখানা যেটা আতাউল্লা সাহেব পরিচালনা করিয়া আসিতেছেন এবং যেগুলি অর্থের অভাবে ভালভাবে পরিচালিত হইতে পারিতেছে না সে দিকে মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের দৃষ্টি পড়ে না। জানি এখানকার মন্ত্রী মহোদয়দের চট্টগ্রামের এতিমখানার জন্য কোন দুঃখ নাই, এবং সেই জন্য চট্টগ্রামের এতিমখানাকে একটী টাকাও দিবার ব্যবস্থা হয় নাই। ফরিদপুর ঢাকা ডিভিসনের মধ্যে বলিয়া এবং কোন কোন মিনিষ্টারের দেশ বলিয়া সেখানে একটী নূতন এতিমখানার জন্য বাষিক ৩ লক্ষ টাকা বরাদ্দ করা হইয়াছে। ইহার চেয়ে অবিচার-অত্যাচার আর কি হইতে পারে? আমি আরও বলি বাংলা দেশের অনেক লোক অর্থের লোভে, ঘুষের লোভে গভর্ণমেণ্টের দলে যোগ দিয়াছেন, তাঁহাদের দেশে কি এতিমখানা নাই? তাঁহাদের দেশের এতিমখানার টাকা খরচ হইতেছে না কেন?

আমি ১৪২ দফার মোশনে প্রস্তাব দিয়াছি যে চট্টগ্রাম জেলার প্রত্যেক থানায় অন্ততঃ একটী করিয়া এতিমখানার ব্যবস্থা করা হউক। এই সঙ্গে আমি ফরিদপুরের আর একটী কথা প্রকাশ করিতেছি। সারা বাংলা দেশে ৪৪০টী কর্ম্মকেন্দ্র স্থাপন করা হইয়াছে, তাহার মধ্যে একমাত্র ফরিদপুর জেলাতেই ৯৪টী কর্ম্মকেন্দ্র। ফরিদপুর বাংলাদেশের বাঁধখানে, যুদ্ধের দরুণ দুঃখ-কষ্ট সেখানে চট্টগ্রামের মত হয় নাই। সে জায়গা সমুদ্রতীরেও নয়, পাহাড়ে জায়গাও নয়। দুর্ভিক্ষ সেখানে থাকিলেও বাংলা দেশের অন্যস্থানের মত তত ভীষণ নয়। অথচ ফরিদপুরে এত কর্ম্মকেন্দ্র হওয়ার কারণ কি? সেটা ঢাকা ডিভিসনের মধ্যে এবং মন্ত্রীদের অধিকাংশই ঢাকা ডিভিসনের লোক এবং ফরিদপুর এডুকেশন মিনিষ্টারের দেশ বলিয়াই কি বরাদ্দ টাকার বেশী অংশ সেখানেই খরচ হইতেছে? আপনারা জানেন চট্টগ্রাম ডিভিসনই একমাত্র যুদ্ধক্ষেত্র। ভারতের মধ্যে সেইটাই একমাত্র যুদ্ধের কেন্দ্র বলিলেই হয়। এই যুদ্ধে যদি চট্টগ্রাম রক্ষা না পায় তাহা হইলে সমস্ত ভারতের বিপদের সম্ভাবনা। চট্টগ্রামের লোক যে দুর্দ্দশা ভোগ করিতেছে তাহা আপনারা সহজে অনুমান করিতে পারেন। তৎসত্ত্বেও গভর্ণমেণ্ট অনেক মিথ্যা প্রচার করিতেছেন। চট্টগ্রামে প্রায় ৮০ হাজার লোক মারা গিয়াছে। ৮আজ চট্টগ্রামে কাপড় নাই বলিলেই হয়। স্যার আজিজুল হক সম্প্রতি বক্তৃতায় বলিয়াছেন যে তিনি বাংলা দেশের বস্ত্র-সমস্যার সম্বন্ধে জ্ঞাত আছেন এবং বস্ত্র সংগ্রহ করিতে অসমর্থ হইয়া মহিলাদের আত্মহত্যার কাহিনী সম্বন্ধেও তিনি জ্ঞাত আছেন। আর তাহার মূল যে চট্টগ্রাম এমন খবরও তাঁহার আছে। তিনি বলেন বাংলা দেশ প্রচুর পরিমাণে কাপড় পাইয়াছে, তৎসত্ত্বেও এরূপ ঘটনা ঘটিবার প্রকৃত কারণ কি তাহা তিনি বুঝিয়া উঠিতে পারিতেছেন না। স্যার আজিজুল হক বাংলা দেশের একজন জনপ্রিয় মন্ত্রী ছিলেন এবং

এই হাউসের স্পীকারও ছিলেন। বাংলা দেশের খবর সব তাঁহার জানা আছে। বস্ত্রাভাবে লজ্জানিবারণ করিতে না পারিয়া আত্মহত্যা করিতেছে এ সংবাদ তিনি দিল্লীতে থাকিয়া অবগত আছেন অথচ বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের মন্ত্রী এবং পার্লামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারী সে খবর জানেন না। আজ আসিবার সময় হ্যারিসন রোডে বারোয়ারীর দোকানে কাপড়ের জন্য যে অবস্থা দেখা গেল তাহাতে চক্ষুর জল সংবরণ করিতে পারা যায় না। আমার মত ক্ষুদ্র প্রাণী কলিকাতায় আসিয়া একখানি বিছানার চাদর কিনিতে গিয়াছিলাম। প্রথম দিন এসেম্‌ব্লি হইতে যাইবার সময় চেষ্টা করিয়া একখানিও পাই না। তার পরে কমলালয়ে যাই; সেখানে কোন প্রকার বিছানার চাদর নাই; তার পরে জয়নাল পান্নালালের ঘরে যাই; সেখানেও চাদর নাই; বড়বাজারে যাই সেখানেও চাদর নাই। তখন আমি বলি বোম্বাইতে কি চাদর হয় না যে আমি একখানিও চাদর পাই না। আমি লীগ দলের জনৈক মেম্বরকে বলি যে তিনি আমাকে কিনিয়া দিতে পারেন কি না। তিনি বলিলেন তিনি পাইবেন না। আমি তখন তাঁকে বলি আপনি তবে ও দলে আছেন কেন? দল ছেড়ে দেন না কেন? তিনি বলেন করি কি? আমার ছেলেকে যে চাকরী দিয়েছে। এই অবস্থা যদি বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টে চলে তবে সেটা কতদূর লজ্জাকর তাহা সহজে অনুমান করিতে পারেন। কালকার "নবযুগের" সম্পাদকীয় স্তম্ভ পাঠ করিলে নিশ্চয়ই মাথা লজ্জায় নত হইয়া যাইবে এবং আপনাদের মন্ত্রীর গদী ও পার্লামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারীর গদী ছাড়িয়া দিবার নিশ্চিত সঙ্কল্প জন্মিবে।

Mr. SPEAKER : খাঁ বাহাদুর সাহেব! আপনি আপনার আপনার বলিবেন না; এই চেয়ারকে সম্বোধন করিয়া কথা বলিবেন।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY : স্যার! আমার জানা আছে, আমি আপনাকেই লক্ষ্য করিয়া কথা বলিয়া থাকি, তবে উঁহারা মাঝে মাঝে আমাকে লক্ষ্য করিয়া কথা বলেন বলিয়া আমাকেও ঐভাবে বলিতে হয়। আমি আপনাকেই লক্ষ্য করিয়া কথা বলিব। উঁহারা নির্লজ্জ কত দূর খেয়াল করুন। আমরা কাপড় পাই না, দেশের লোক কাপড় পায় না, কিন্তু উঁহারা কোথা হইতে কাপড় পান? উঁহাদের দল—ওঁদের দল চোরের দল, ডাকাতের দল।

Mr. SPEAKER : কাপড়ের কথা এখানে আসে কেন?

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY : এখানে দুর্ভিক্ষের কথা হইতেছে। দুর্ভিক্ষ কোন জিনিসে নয়? কাপড়, তৈল, লবণ, চিনি প্রত্যেক বিষয়েই দুর্ভিক্ষ। সেই জন্যই এই সব বিষয় বলিতে হইতেছে।

Mr. SPEAKER : আচ্ছা, আপনি একটু সংক্ষেপে বলুন।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY : আমি "নবযুগ" থেকে একটু পাঠ করিতেছি শুনুন। "এজাতাতুল খাকা'তে শাহ ওলিউল্লা দেখাইয়াছেন ওমর মাত্র ৩ বৎসরের চেষ্টায় ব্যাপক কৃষি ও শিল্পের উন্নতির দ্বারা নব-অধিকৃত বিস্তৃত রাজ্যকে কিভাবে আর্থিক বিষয়ে সমৃদ্ধ করিয়াছিলেন। তিনি এক দিকে যেমন ব্যাপক সেচ-প্রথা প্রবর্ত্তন দ্বারা এরাক, হেজাজ, এ্যামন, ও ইরাণের বিস্তৃত অনুর্ব্বর ভূভাগকে কৃষি বিষয়ে সমৃদ্ধিশালী করিয়া তুলিয়াছিলেন, তেমনি আর দিকে ব্যাপক শিল্প-প্রতিষ্ঠার দ্বারা রাজ্য হইতে বেকার ও দারিদ্র্য সমস্যাকে বিদূরিত করিয়াছিলেন। পক্ষান্তরে রাষ্ট্রের পক্ষ হইতে অনাথ, শিশু ও বিধবাদের প্রতিপালনের ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছিলেন। এস্‌লাম পুনঃ পুনঃ জলদগম্ভীর স্বরে ঘোষণা করিয়াছে যে কেবল শিক্ষা প্রচার ও স্বাস্থ্য রক্ষার ব্যবস্থা এবং ন্যায় বিচার প্রতিষ্ঠা দ্বারা রাষ্ট্রের দায়িত্ব পালিত হয় না। প্রত্যেক বেকারকে কাজ দেওয়া এবং সহায়সম্বলহীনকে অন্ন-বস্ত্র ও চিকিৎসা দিয়া মানুষের মতন করিয়া বাঁচাইয়া রাখাই হইতেছে রাষ্ট্রের প্রাথমিক কর্ত্তব্য। সুতরাং যে রাষ্ট্র সেই কর্ত্তব্য পালন না করিয়া মানবতাকে ধ্বংসের পথে তুলিয়া দেয় সেই রাষ্ট্র জনগণের সমর্থন পাওয়ার যোগ্য নহে। সে স্থলে জনগণের সম্মুখে একমাত্র কর্ত্তব্য রহিয়াছে সমস্ত অচল ব্যবস্থাকে ভাঙ্গিয়া চুরমার করা। অর্থাৎ মানবতাকে ধ্বংসকারী অচল বিধি-ব্যবস্থাকে ভাঙ্গিয়া চুরমার করিয়া জনকল্যাণকর নূতন বিধি-ব্যবস্থার প্রবর্ত্তন কর।" আমি মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে এই সমস্ত সম্পাদকীয় মন্তব্য পাঠ করিতে অনুরোধ করি এবং আশা করি বাংলা দেশে যাহাতে সুশাসনের ব্যবস্থা হয় তাহা করিবেন। এই সঙ্গে আর একটু বলিতে চাই। বাংলা দেশে অনেক থানে কর্ম্মশালার ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন, কোন কোন ক্ষেত্রে প্রায় থানাতেই কর্ম্মশালার ব্যবস্থা করিয়াছেন। সেজন্য আমি তাঁহাকে অন্তরের সহিত ধন্যবাদ দিতেছি। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় যে তিনি তাঁহার আদেশ জেলার ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট, S. D. O. এবং অন্য কর্ম্মচারীর দ্বারা পালন করাইতে পারেন না। তাঁহার আদেশ ছিল যেখানে দুঃস্থ হাসপাতাল আছে তাহার সঙ্গে এবং থানার কেন্দ্রস্থলে কর্ম্মশালা হবে। কিন্তু সে রকম order পাওয়া সত্ত্বেও তা প্রতিপালিত হয় নাই,

আমি প্রমাণ দিতেছি। আনোয়ারা কেন্দ্রের কর্মশালা আনোয়ারা থানার কেন্দ্রস্থলে নয়, এবং হালপাতালও নিকটে নয়। আমি অনুরোধ করি মন্ত্রী মহাশয় তাঁহার আদেশ প্রতিপালিত করাইয়া লইবেন। আর যদি না পারেন একজন subordinate officerএর নিকট অপমানিত হওয়ার চেয়ে মন্ত্রীর গদী হইতে নামিয়া যাওয়া ভাল।

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Sir, it is very unfortunate that the Opposition after an hour and a quarter's debate has left the House and has not given us an opportunity of explaining to them what the Government have actually done to meet the exigencies of famine. I would submit that they have not only done their best with the resources which were available to them, but they have done probably much more than that. They have got some aid from the Centre and they hope to get much more aid from the Centre hereafter. Sir, the demand for Rs.1,69,00,000—I may explain to the House—was absolutely necessary for carrying on the rehabilitation relief works. As has been already stated at page 27 of the Supplementary Estimate, the extra amount of Rs.74,00,000 was necessary for running the Famine Relief Hospitals for six months more. In the original Budget other items have already been explained, and I think I need not repeat those explanations.

Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chaudhuri has made some observations on matters which have practically nothing to do with this Department. Government are already running work houses and distributing cloth, milk and medicines and other things to the distressed people. As regards arrangements for the supply of cloth to the general public that is a matter which concerns another Department. So I do not think that matter deserves any reply from me.

With these few words I oppose all the amendments and I hope my proposal will be carried.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs.1,69,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about situation of central workhouses of Anwara and Bankshali police-stations in the district of Chittagong, attached to the emergency hospitals in Tailardwip and Bailchari, respectively, in conformity with Government circular which are more central, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs.1,69,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about starting of at least one orphanage in every police-station in the Chittagong Division which is mostly affected by war, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs.1,69,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about making sufficient grant to Kadam Mobarak, Lamabazar and Bailchari (Yatim Khana) orphanage in Chittagong, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs.1,69,00,000 for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about the partiality of Ministers in making unnecessary huge grant to Faridpur Yatim Khana in Dacca Division, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea that a sum of Rs.1,69,00,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "54—Famine" during the current year, was then put and agreed to.

38—Medical.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.24,86,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" during the current year.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.24,86,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" during the current year be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about sufficient Government grant and supply of sufficient medicine to union board dispensaries.

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমার নামে যে ৯১ নং cut motion আছে সেটা আমি formally move করছি। এই প্রসঙ্গে আমি Public Health Departmentএর ভারপ্রাপ্ত মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে দুই একটি কথা বলতে ইচ্ছা করি।

তিনি চট্টগ্রামের লোক এবং নিশ্চয়ই তাঁহার বাংলা দেশের সকল লোকের কাছে জনপ্রিয় হওয়া বাঞ্ছনীয়। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় এ বৎসর চিকিৎসা বিভাগের জন্য যে ব্যবস্থা করেছেন তাহার জন্য তাঁকে ধন্যবাদ দিচ্ছি। কিন্তু বাংলাদেশের পাড়াগাঁ অঞ্চলে উপযুক্ত পরিমাণে quinine বিতরণ যে হয় নাই, তাহা বোধ হয় তিনি লক্ষ্য করেন নাই। পাড়াগাঁয়ে যা কিছু quinine এবং ঔষধপত্র সাধারণতঃ Union Board ও Circle Officerএর দ্বারা বিতরণ হয়ে থাকে। কিন্তু এইভাবে ঔষধপত্র বিতরণ করিলে প্রত্যেক গ্রামবাসী যে ঔষধ পেতে পারে না তাহা বোধ হয়, মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় উপলব্ধি করিতে পারিবেন। Control দরে quinine ও ঔষধপত্র কোন কোন দোকানে পাওয়া যায়। Civil Surgeonএর সইযুক্ত এইরকম একটা list প্রত্যেক থানার টাঙ্গান থাকে। কিন্তু এই সমস্ত দোকানে সাধারণ গ্রামবাসী যখন ঔষধ কিনতে যান, তখন তাদের refuse করা হয়—বলা হয় যে control দরে কোন ঔষধ নেই। দুই আনা দামের ঔষধ তাকে এক টাকায় খরিদ করতে হয়। এই যে অন্যায় দুর্নীতি পরিচালিত হইতেছে, তাহা তিনি, বাংলাদেশের বিশেষ করে চট্টগ্রামের লোক হয়ে, নিজের ভাইয়ের নিকট জানিয়াও, দমন করিতেছেন না। সেই জন্য আমি খান বাহাদুর জালালুদ্দীন আহমেদ সাহেবের কার্য্যের তীব্র নিন্দা করিতেছি। তাঁহাকে অনুরোধ করিতেছি ইহার একটা সুব্যবস্থা করুন। যাহাতে Union Boardএর দ্বারা প্রত্যেক গ্রামবাসী ঔষধ পাইতে পারে তাহার ব্যবস্থা করুন এবং সঙ্গে সঙ্গে যে সমস্ত dispensaryতে quinine নাই, সেখানে উপযুক্ত পরিমাণ রাখিবার ব্যবস্থা করুন।

এই প্রসঙ্গে আমি আর একটী বিষয়ের উল্লেখ করিতেছি। অনেক থানায় নূতন নূতন dispensary খোলা হইতেছে ও ইহা Union Boardএর দ্বারা পরিচালিত হইতেছে। এই সমস্ত dispensaryতে ডাক্তার নার্স, মেথর ও কর্ম্মচারীদের বেতনের দরুণ প্রায় প্রতি মাসে দুশো তিনশো করে টাকা ব্যয় হইয়া থাকে। আমার চট্টগ্রাম জেলায় আমি নিজে দেখিয়াছি, সেখানে যে সমস্ত dispensary বা ডাক্তারখানা আছে, সেখানে Civil Surgeon, ডাক্তার, নার্স, মেথর ও কর্ম্মচারিবৃন্দের বেতন দিবার ব্যবস্থা আছে কিন্তু সেখানে ঔষধ পাবার কোন উপায় নেই।

(At this stage there was red light.)

আমি অনুরোধ করি আমাকে আরও কিছু সময় দেওয়া হোক।

Mr. SPEAKER: আচ্ছা, আপনি বলুন।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: খান বাহাদুর জালালউদ্দীন সাহেবের বাড়ীতে গিয়ে কিছু বলতে গেলে, তিনি সাধারণতঃ বলে থাকেন তাঁর সময় নেই। কিন্তু এখানে তো আছে? আমি আশা করি তিনি আমার কথাগুলি ভাল করে শুনবেন।

আপনি নিশ্চয় জানেন যে চট্টগ্রাম জেলায় যে সমস্ত নূতন ডাক্তারখানা খোলা হয়েছে সেই সমস্ত ডাক্তার-খানায় কোন ঔষধ নেই।

Mr. SPEAKER: আপনি, আপনি বলবেন না। আপনি Chairকে address করে বলুন।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: আমি আপনার মারফতে তাঁকে জানাচ্ছি যে চট্টগ্রাম এলাকা অঞ্চলে যে সমস্ত নূতন dispensary খোলা হয়েছে, সেখানে যাতে quinine এবং অন্যান্য ঔষধপত্র পাওয়া যায়, শীঘ্র তার একটা ব্যবস্থা করুন। এই বিষয়ের খবর যদি তিনি না পেয়ে থাকেন তবে আমি তাঁকে অনুরোধ করি যে তিনি aeroplaneএ চড়ে নিজে সেখানে গিয়ে দেখে আসুন যে সেখানে কোন ঔষধ আছে কিনা। ডাক্তারখানায় ঔষধ নেই অথচ লাখে লাখে, হাজার হাজার টাকা ডাক্তার, নার্স, মেথর, কর্ম্মচারীদের জন্য ব্যয় হইতেছে। এটা অত্যন্ত লজ্জার কথা। চট্টগ্রাম জেলায় বহু লোক কালাজ্বরে মারা যাচ্ছে; কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় এই সমস্ত ডাক্তারখানায় কালাজ্বরের injection দেবার কোন বন্দোবস্ত নাই।

আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করিতেছি যাহাতে গ্রাম্য ইউনিয়ন বোর্ডের dispensaryগুলিতে প্রচুর পরিমাণে কইনাইন, কালাজ্বরের ইনজেকসন্ ও অন্যান্য ঔষধপত্র থাকে তাহার ব্যবস্থা করুন।

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs.24,86,000 for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about sufficient Government grant and supply of sufficient medicine to union board dispensaries, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad that a sum of Rs.24,86,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "38—Medical" during the current year, was then put and agreed to.

(The House was then adjourned for fifteen minutes.)

(After adjournment.)

40—Agriculture.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs.91,47,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" during the current year.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.91,47,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about making scientific examination of elements of soils to remedy pestilence of betel leaves, bamboos, and chilly seedlings.

I beg also to move that the demand of Rs.91,47,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about agricultural income-tax which has not been earmarked for the agricultural improvement.

স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমার নামে ১০৭ ও ১০৮ যে দুটি cut motion দেওয়া আছে, সেই দুটিকে একত্রে আমি move করছি।

আমি মাননীয় কৃষি-মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করছি বর্ত্তমানে যে কৃষি-আয় হচ্ছে সেই টাকাটা, যাতে কৃষির উপকার হয়, যতদূর সম্ভব, সেইভাবে ব্যয় করবার চেষ্টা করুন। (Noise and interruption.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Don't interrupt, please. আপনাকে বলছি না, এদের বলছি। আপনি বলুন।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: আমি তাঁকে আর একটা বিষয় লক্ষ্য করতে বলছি। চট্টগ্রাম অঞ্চলের প্রত্যেক এলাকায় নিশ্চয় তিনি গিয়াছেন এবং সেখানকার, বিশেষ করে পাড়াগাঁয়ের অবস্থা সম্বন্ধে, নিশ্চয় তাঁর জ্ঞান আছে। বর্ত্তমানে চট্টগ্রামের পাড়াগাঁয়ের লোকদের অবস্থা অতি শোচনীয়। তাহারা খড়, ছন ও খুঁটির অভাবে গৃহ বাঁধিতে পারিতেছে না। একথা নিশ্চয় তিনি অবগত আছেন। যদি-এ সম্বন্ধে তিনি অবগত না থাকেন তাহলে তাঁকে আমি অনুরোধ করবো যে তিনি তাঁর অফিসারদের কাছ থেকে জেনে নিন। গৃহ না থাকায় আজ চট্টগ্রামের বহু চাষীকে গৃহহীন অবস্থায় দিন কাটাইতে হইতেছে। (Again noise and interruption) এখানে যেন একটা বায়স্কোপ তামাসা হচ্ছে। আপনারা এত গোলমাল করছেন কেন? একটু চুপ করে আমার কথাগুলা শুনন না? আমি বলতে চাই যে বর্ত্তমানে চট্টগ্রামের চাষীদের থাকবার জায়গা নেই। তাহারা গৃহ নির্ম্মাণ করিতে পারিতেছে না। পূর্ব্বে ১০০ বাঁশের দাম ছিল ১২ টাকা এখন তার দাম হয়েছে ৪০ টাকা। এক বৎসর পূর্ব্বে যে ছনের দাম ছিল দুই আনা আজ তার দাম হয়েছে ৬ টাকা। পূর্ব্বে যে খুঁটির দাম ছিল ২ আনা মাত্র এখন তার দাম হয়েছে পাঁচ টাকা। আমার কথা যদি বিশ্বাসযোগ্য না হয়, তাহলে আপনারা এ বিষয়ে তদন্ত করে দেখতে পারেন। বর্ত্তমান অবস্থায় চট্টগ্রামের চাষীদের নিজ ঘর নির্ম্মাণ করে বাস করা অসম্ভব হয়েছে। খামার খাড়া করাতো দূরের কথা, এ বছর চাষ করবার টাকা পর্য্যন্ত তাদের নাই। খামার যদি তারা খাড়া করতে না পারে তবে তারা এ বছর চাষ করবে কি করে? চট্টগ্রামের চাষীরা এই যে গৃহহীন অবস্থায় দিন কাটাইতেছে এর একটা বিহিত এক্ষণেই গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষ থেকে করা নিতান্ত প্রয়োজন। এখন তাদের রক্ষা করা গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষে কর্ত্তব্য। তারা যাতে control দরে খড়, ছন, বাঁশ, খুঁটি পায় তার ব্যবস্থা করুন। অনেকে খড়ের বদলে টিনের ছাদ করিয়া থাকে। কিন্তু এখন টিনের অভাব, টিনের চাল যে করবে তারও উপায় নাই। Control দরে যাতে টিন পাওয়া যায় তারও ব্যবস্থা গভর্ণমেণ্টের করা উচিত।

আজ দেখা যাচ্ছে কাপড়, জামা, জুতা ইত্যাদি সমস্ত জিনিষ control করবামাত্র চোরাবাজারে চলে যাচ্ছে। এই রকমভাবে control করা না করা সমান। যে কোন রকমভাবে একটা control না করে যাতে সমান ভাবে সকলে পেতে পারে তার ব্যবস্থা করুন। কলিকাতায় যেমন ration cardএর ব্যবস্থা হয়েছে সেই রকম-ভাবে চট্টগ্রামের প্রতিটি অঞ্চলে ব্যবস্থা করা হউক এবং পাড়াগাঁয়ের লোকেরা তাদের গৃহ নির্মাণ করিবার জন্য বাঁশ, ছন, খুঁটি যাহাতে control দরে পায় তারও ব্যবস্থা করা হোক।

এই সম্পর্কে আমি বলতে চাই যে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় নিশ্চয়ই অবগত আছেন যে চট্টগ্রামের প্রায় ৮ হাজার acre পতিত জমি রয়েছে। সেই জমিগুলিতে শস্যাদি উৎপন্ন করবার জন্য, আজ প্রায় দুই বৎসর কাল ধরিয়া গভর্ণমেণ্টকে বারম্বার বলা সত্ত্বেও তাঁরা কর্ণপাত করিতেছেন না। জমিগুলি Settlementএ record করা আছে। Forest Department বলেন যে সেখানে খুব ভাল জঙ্গল হবে। কিন্তু আমি বলতে পারি এই সমস্ত জমিগুলিতে চাষ করলে গভর্ণমেণ্টের ঢের বেশী উপকার হবে, তাতে গভর্ণমেণ্টের আয় বৃদ্ধি হবে। Forest Department কি মনে করেন যে জমির কিছু অংশ ছেড়ে দিলে তার সন্ধান করে যাবে? আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করি তিনি নিজে সেখানে গিয়ে দেখে আসুন। এই সমস্ত পতিত জমি হইতে Forest Departmentএর অতি সামান্যই আয় হইয়া থাকে। তার যা income তার চেয়ে তার ব্যয় বেশী। কতক-গুলি আগাছা জমি পড়ে আছে। আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করছি তিনি লাট সাহেবকে ধরে, এই সমস্ত পতিত জমি যাতে ধান ও অন্যান্য চাষের উপযোগী হয় তার ব্যবস্থা করুন।

Mr. J. R. WALKER: Sir, I do not wish to make a speech to a thin house but I would like some information from the Hon'ble Minister on two points. The supplementary estimates show that there has been an increase in the expenditure on the jute regulation scheme of approximately Rs.26 lakhs. The total cost of the jute regulation scheme is now shown to be Rs.61 lakhs. Now, Sir, it seems clear that the work of the jute regulation itself cannot have cost anything like Rs.61 lakhs and other items must have been wrongly included under this head. It would be remembered that the House in 1941 passed the raw jute tax which was intended to cover the cost of jute regulation and of other Government jute schemes. The cost of jute regulation was then estimated by the Finance Minister as between Rs.32-33 lakhs and even taking into account the payment of dearness allowances to the staff I don't see how the cost can possibly have increased to Rs.61 lakhs. It cannot seriously be suggested that the work of issuing and checking licenses of the jute growers has cost anything like this sum. It would therefore appear that a number of other items such as for example the collection of crop statistics have been included under this head. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister what exactly the work of jute regulation has cost and what are the other items included under this head. I would also like to be assured that in future only jute regulation will be included under this head and the other items will be shown under separate heads. The present system of accounting gives us an entirely wrong impression.

I would like to hear from the Hon'ble Minister in charge why the demand for fisheries has again been included under the head "Industries" although last year the attention of Government was drawn to this mistake. Will the Hon'ble Minister please explain the position?

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSAIN: I should give a reply first to Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury. He had two cut motions, of which one was practically moved and the other not moved. He talked about the agricultural income-tax but said nothing about problem of betel leave, etc. I may tell him for his information that so long Bengal had no mycologist or entomologist to look after the pestilences and diseases of crops and plants. Now we have got the very best Mycologist in the whole of India. We have got Dr. Padwick, Principal of the Dacca Agricultural Institute, and under him we have got one trained man. We are also going to have some more men trained in mycology and entomolgy and therefore, pestilence and diseases of plants and crops will now be properly looked after.

As regards the agricultural income-tax, I may tell the honourable member that it is not the policy of the Finance Department to earmark any particular tax for any particular purpose. As a matter of fact we know that we are spending on agricultural department, much more than what we get from the tax on agricultural development. It is not, therefore, necessary to earmark the tax. From this tax, we can at best get only Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 lakhs whereas our agricultural budget shows an increase from Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 lakhs to more than two crores. Even in the supplementary estimates, the demand is for Rs. 91 lakhs and odd. So, the question of earmarking does not arise.

As regards Mr. Walker's query as to why the cost of jute regulation has increased so much, this is chiefly due to the entertainment of staff—jute regulation staff—for Western Bengal. Hitherto there was no jute staff for West Bengal, because jute cultivation is very little there. But for the purpose of looking after famine and distress we had to employ a big staff, of which half the cost was debited to the jute regulation and half to famine. That is why the cost has increased so greatly. I may say at the same time that this huge staff which used to be only entertained for the purpose of jute regulation work are now being fully employed because they have been harnessed to development department and they have to work for collection of agricultural statistics. For agricultural statistics we had to employ only two village recorders, in each union, union recorders, but for supervising the work of collection of agricultural statistics, that is for checking and other things, we employed the entire jute regulation staff. But for the jute regulation staff, it would have been impossible to get the statistics of crops. In Western Bengal, there was no supervising staff available for crop statistics. That also justifies the entertainment of staff in Western Bengal which was chiefly responsible for the increase in the expenditure under the head jute regulation.

The other point raised by Mr. Walker was about fisheries. I think that the Finance Department has been doing it always including it as part of Industries and so it did take note of last year's comment and not made it a separate head, under the Agricultural Department. I think next year it will be done by the Finance Department.

With these words, I commend that the demand made under the head Agriculture be granted by the House.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs.91,47,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about making scientific examination of elements of soils to remedy the pestilence of betel leaves, bamboos and chilly seedlings, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs.91,47,000 for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about agricultural income-tax which has not been earmarked for the agricultural improvement, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Saiyed Muazzamuddin Hosain that a sum of Rs.91,47,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "40—Agriculture" during the current year was then put and agreed to.

39—Public Health.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: On the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.1,16,07,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health", during the current year.

I want to speak now because the time was very short in replying to the motion moved by Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmad Chowdhury in connection with the demand under the head "Medical".

Mr. SPEAKER: You cannot speak on that now.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi JALALUDDIN AHMAD: Only one sentence, Sir. In support of my motion I can tell the members of the House that the supply of finance and medicine to rural union board dispensaries has been arranged in such a way that no complaint has come from the district of Chittagong from which the honourable member comes. He will have occasion to speak again when the ordinary demand comes up before the House.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad that a sum of Rs.1,16,07,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "39—Public Health" during the current year was then put and agreed to.

Irrigation—18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from ordinary revenues.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs.10,52,600 be granted for expenditure under the head "18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from ordinary Revenues" during the current year.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 10,52,600 for expenditure under the head "18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from ordinary Revenues" during the current year be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about re-excavation of silted "Khan Bahadur Fanri Canal", Anwara, and Kumirchora Canal, Bankshali, in Chittagong without delay as the present silted up condition of the above is causing disadvantages to communication, agriculture and sanitation of the locality.

I also beg to move that the demand of Rs.10,52,600 for expenditure under the head "18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from ordinary Revenues" during the current year be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about establishment of sluice gate system to obtruct brine water and utilise the pure hill water to overflood a vast area with a view to grow more food by additional harvest of paddy and rabi crop in the area of the following rivers and streamlets in Chittagong, *viz.*, Karnafully, Halda, Sangu, Dalu Tankavati, Matamohuri, Bagkhali rivers and Bailcharichhora, Kalipurchhora, Sadhupurchholra, Silkopchhora, Naporachhora streamlets.

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমার নামে 42 এবং 44 দুইটী motion আছে। আমি দুইটীই একত্রে move করছি। আমি Irrigation মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে, আপনার মারফতে জানাতে চাই যে Irrigation Departmentএর জন্য যে লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকা ব্যয় হইতেছে তাহাতে পূর্ব্ব বাংলার কোন উপকার হইতেছে না। লক্ষ্য করলেই দেখতে পাবেন Irrigation Departmentএর দেয়ালে দেয়ালে কত map টাঙ্গান আছে এবং সেখানে লেখা আছে যে বাংলা দেশের বর্দ্ধমান ও প্রেসিডেন্সী ডিভিশন্ বিভাগে প্রায় শতকরা ৯০ টাকা ব্যয় করা হইতেছে এবং বাকী তিনটা ডিভিশন্‌কে শতকরা ১০ টাকা করে দেওয়া হইতেছে। হাউসের মেম্বরগণ ইহা দেখিতেছেন না। তাঁহারা সকলে বর্ত্তমান মন্ত্রিমণ্ডলীকে কেন অন্ধের মত support করছেন তা আমি বুঝতে পারছি না।

চট্টগ্রামের প্রায় প্রত্যেক অঞ্চলে পাহাড় আছে—সেখানে পাহাড়ের মিঠা জল নদীর লোনা জলে গিয়ে মিশেছে। Irrigation Department প্রতি বৎসরে বহু টাকা ব্যয় করে থাকেন। সুতরাং এই সমস্ত অঞ্চলের দিকে যদি সামান্য কিছু টাকা ব্যয় করেন তাহা হইলে বহু লোকের উপকার হয়। এই সমস্ত অঞ্চলে লাখ লাখ মণ ধান উৎপন্ন হইবার উপায় রয়েছে, ইহা করিতে পারিলে বহু লোকের অন্ন সংস্থানের ব্যবস্থা হইবে।

যাঁদের চট্টগ্রাম এলাকার অভিজ্ঞতা আছে তাঁরা জানেন কর্ণাফুলি, হালদা, সাঙ্গু, দলু তঙ্কাবতী, মাতামহরী বাঘখালি নদীর এবং বৈলচরীচরা, কলিপুরচোরা, সাধুপুরচোরা, নোপাড়চোরা খালের জল লোনা জলের সাথে মিশে গিয়েছে। পাহাড় থেকে মিঠা জল নেমে এসে লোনা জলের সাথে মিশে যাচ্ছে। যেখানে মিঠা ও লোনা জলে meet করছে সেখানে যদি একটা sluice gate বসানর ব্যবস্থা করা হয় তাহা হইলে আর মিঠা ও লোনা জলে মিশিতে পারে না। আমি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করিতেছি তিনি যেন ইহার সত্বর ব্যবস্থা করেন। মাঠে জল বাঁধিয়া দিতে পারিলে, সেখানে বহু ধান ও রবিশস্য উৎপন্ন হইতে পারিবে এবং তদ্দ্বারা বাংলা দেশে বহু লোকের উপকার হইবে। ইহার দ্বারা কত লক্ষ লক্ষ লোকের খাইবার ব্যবস্থা হইতে পারে তাহা তিনি একটুও চিন্তা করিতেছেন না। আমি বুঝতে পারি না—যে opposition memberগণ কিছু বললেই তাঁরা হেসে ঠাট্টা করে উড়িয়ে দিতে চান কেন? সৎ-যুক্তি দিলে গভর্ণমেণ্ট সেটা মানতে চান না। কিন্তু বিগত ফজলুল হক

সাহেবের মন্ত্রিত্ব কালে যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট ছিল সে "যদি আমেদের" মত লোকের কথা শুনতো। বর্ত্তমানে যে অবস্থা দেখছি, গভর্ণমেণ্টের পক্ষ নজমুল হক সাহেবের কথা শুনতে চান না। আবার যখন নাজিমউদ্দীন সাহেব কোন কথা বলতে যান তা opposition দল গোলমাল করে শুনতে চান না এই অবস্থা দাঁড়িয়েছে।

গভর্ণমেণ্টকে আমি অনুরোধ করছি লোনা জল যাহাতে মাঠে প্রবেশ করিতে না পারে এবং মাঠের জল যাহাতে সমুদ্রে যাইতে না পারে তাহার জন্য Irrigation Department থেকে সত্বর sluice gateএর বন্দোবস্ত করা হউক। বেশী টাকা খরচ করবার দরকার নাই। কোন জায়গায় ৫ হাজার, কোথাও ৭ হাজার বা কোথাও ১০ হাজার এই রকমভাবে ভিন্ন স্থানে খরচ করে, সর্ব্বসমেত ৫০ লক্ষ টাকা, যদি এ বছর ব্যয় করতে পারেন, তাহলে আমি আপনাদিগকে প্রতিশ্রুতি দিতে পারি যে এই সমস্ত জায়গা থেকে অন্ততঃ পঞ্চাশ লক্ষ মণ ধান পাওয়া যাবে। ইহা করিতে পারিলে দেশের ও স্বাস্থ্যের যথেষ্ট উপকার হবে।

আর একটা বিষয়ে আপনাকে জানাচ্ছি। বর্ত্তমানে Coxbazar হচ্ছে চট্টগ্রামের একটা subdivision. সেখানে train যাইবার কোন পথ নাই, একমাত্র steamerএ করিয়া নদী পথে যাতায়াত করিতে হয়। চট্টগ্রাম এবং Coxbazarএর মাঝখানে একটী কুমীরচোরা নামে খাল আছে, এবং এই খালে সাধারণতঃ বোটে করিয়া যাতায়াত করিতে হয়। এই খালের অনেক জায়গায় ভাটা পড়িয়া থাকে এবং তজ্জন্য যাতায়াতের বহু অসুবিধা হইয়া থাকে। সাধারণতঃ প্রতি মাসের পঞ্চমী, ষষ্ঠী, সপ্তমী ও নবমীর দিনে এই খাল শুকাইয়া যায় এবং তাহার ফলে জনসাধারণ ঐ সমস্ত অঞ্চলে যাতায়াত করিতে পারে না। আমি ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করছি তিনি সত্বর এই খাল কাটাবার ব্যবস্থা করুন।

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs.10,52,600 for expenditure under the head "18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from ordinary Revenues" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about re-excavation of silted "Khan Bahadur Fanri Canal", Anwara and Kumirchora Canal, Bankshali, in Chittagong, without delay as the present silted up condition of the above is causing disadvantages to communication, agriculture and sanitation of the locality, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs.10,52,600 for expenditure under the head "18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from ordinary Revenues" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about establishment of sluice gate system to obstruct brine water and utilise the pure hill water to overflood a vast area with a view to grow more food by additional harvest of paddy and rabi crop in the area of the following rivers and streamlets in Chittagong, viz., Karnafully, Halda, Sangu, Dalu, Tankavati, Matamohuri, Bagkholi rivers and Bailcharichhora, Kalipurchhora, Sadhupurcholra, Silkopchhora, Naporachhora streamlets, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prosanna Pain that a sum of Rs.10,52,600 be granted for expenditure under the head "18—Other Revenue Expenditure financed from ordinary Revenues" during the current year was then put and agreed to.

43—Industries—Industries.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs.40,84,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Industries" during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

43—Industries—Cinchona.

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs.1,40,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "43—Industries—Cinchona" during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 7-31 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Thursday, the 8th March 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 8th March, 1945, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 11 Hon'ble Ministers and 151 members.

Obituary.

Mr. SPEAKER: Ladies and gentlemen, it is my melancholy duty to refer to the sad death of Rai Bahadur Kirit Bhusan Das, a sitting member of this House.

The Rai Bahadur represented Murshidabad Scheduled Caste Constituency. He was Chairman, Jangipur Local Board; President, Dafarpur Union Board; member, Murshidabad District Board; and Honorary Magistrate, Jangipur Independent Bench.

He was loved and respected by all who came in contact with him for his pleasant and unassuming manners.

I feel that it is the desire of the House to send a message of condolence to the bereaved family. I hope members will signify their assent by rising in their seats.

(Members rose in their seats.)

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Secretary will take necessary action.

Adjournment.

The House was then adjourned at 4-3 p.m. till 4 p.m. on Friday, the 9th March, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Assembly assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935.

THE ASSEMBLY met in the Assembly House, Calcutta, on Friday, the 9th March, 1945, at 4 p.m.

Present:

Mr. Speaker (the Hon'ble Mr. SYED NAUSHER ALI) in the Chair, 12 Hon'ble Ministers and 168 members.

STARRED QUESTION

(to which oral answer was given)

Uniforms for the nurses of F.R.E. Hospital, Tangail.

*156. **Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health Department aware of the fact that while the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Agriculture Department went to Tangail recently, the nurses of the destitute hospital were compelled to make their nurses' uniform at their own cost on pain of penalty?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government propose to bear the cost of making those uniforms and pay the amount to the poor nurses back?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of—

(*i*) making an enquiry into the matter; and

(*ii*) stating the result thereof?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

(*c*) An enquiry is being made.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how, when he says "No" to (*a*), an enquiry is being held in reply to (*c*)?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: An enquiry is being held for further details. We got a report from the Civil Surgeon that there was no such complaint nor such things had occurred but still we think there must have been something, if not in the nature of a complaint, of that sort and so we have called for further details from the Civil Surgeon.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Do I understand that there is a *prima facie* case?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No, there is nothing like that. We have been assured that there was no compulsion from the authorities to get the nurses uniformed.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: From the answer just given, are we to understand that the nurses made their uniforms of their own accord?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: There was no compulsion.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Who made the enquiry?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: We have already asked for a further detailed report why such a complaint has been made about the uniform?

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: From the answer just now given that the Civil Surgeon informed Government that there was no such case, how can the Civil Surgeon get this information and from which source?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The Civil Surgeon got the report that there was no compulsion on the part of the authorities on the nurses to make the uniforms at their own cost but still Government thinks that there was something which prompted the nurses to make the uniforms. So we have asked the Civil Surgeon to go there and make a further enquiry.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that when a copy of this question was sent to Tangail for an answer the notice to the nurses which was on the notice board was torn to pieces?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Government is not aware of that.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to make this a point of enquiry?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Government will consider it.

UNSTARRED QUESTION

(answer to which was laid on the table)

Medical treatment of Babu Bastimall Lunarwath, a security prisoner.

52. Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department aware—

(*i*) that Babu Bastimall Lunarwath is detained now in the Midnapore Central Jail as a security prisoner;

(*ii*) that he had been suffering from Bronchial Asthma when he was arrested on the 15th September, 1942.

(*iii*) that his ailment increased during his imprisonment;

(*iv*) that he was under medical treatment practically for the entire period of his imprisonment;

(*v*) that he has been bed-ridden in the Jail Hospital for months together and has been suffering from Bronchial Asthma, Diarrhœa, regular rise in temperature every evening and Jaundice; and

(*vi*) that his weight was 84 lbs. when he was arrested and now his weight is 70 lbs., and he is every day losing weight?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of—

(*i*) making arrangements for his better treatment; or

(*ii*) releasing him for treatment by his guardians?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that he has applied intimating his present political views and informed the Government that he believes in and supports the Anti-Fascist people's war?

(*d*) If the reply to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to think the desirability of releasing him in accordance with the policy adopted by the Government to the Communist Party?

MINISTER in charge of the HOME DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*) (*i*) and (*c*) Yes.

(*ii*) to (*vi*) and (*b*) He was suffering from chronic Bronchitis since his arrest for which he was transferred from Midnapore Central Jail to the Medical College Hospitals where proper treatment was accorded to him by the specialists. After discharge he was retransferred to the Midnapore Central Jail and his weight there has increased by 3 lbs.

(*d*) No.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what is the present weight of Babu Bastimall Lunarwath?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: His weight on admission was 80 lbs. and his present weight is 78 lbs.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state as to whether when he was sent from the Presidency Jail to the Midnapore Jail he was not in a proper condition to be transferred and his weight in Midnapore Jail is at present 62 lbs.?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That information is not correct. His present weight is 78 lbs. and his weight on admission was 80 lbs.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the reason or reasons for keeping a man in detention for security purposes who was anti-Fascist in his views?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: His detention is considered necessary on security grounds.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state who was the specialist who examined the security prisoner?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: What is the report of this specialist?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The prisoner was suffering from chronic Bronchitis.

STARRED QUESTIONS

(to which oral answers were given)

Release of security and State prisoners.

***157. Mr. PRATUL CHANDRA GANGULI:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of persons detained as security prisoners under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules in various jails up to date;

(*ii*) the number of security prisoners released since 24th April, 1943;

(*iii*) the number of persons arrested and detained as security prisoners since 24th April, 1943;

(*iv*) the number of persons detained as State prisoners under Regulation III of 1818 since 24th April, 1943;

(*v*) the number—

(1) of security prisoners under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules, and

(2) State prisoners under Regulation III of 1818,

detained in various jails for about three years;

(*vi*) the present number of women security prisoners; and

(*vii*) the present number and names of the members of the Bengal Legislative Assembly detained in jail as—

(1) security prisoners, and

(2) State prisoners?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of releasing the security prisoners and State prisoners?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): (*a*)(*i*) None of the prisoners are now detained under rule 26 of the Defence of India Rules which has long been superseded by Ordinance III of 1944. The present number of detainees is as below—

(1) Political—1,317 (including women).

(2) Criminal—2,276.

(*ii*) 555 (this does not include criminal security prisoners released).

(*iii*) 259.

(*iv*) 16.

(*v*) (1) 236.

(2) Nil.

(*vi*) 19.

(*vii*) (1) Babu Jnanendra Chandra Majumdar, Babu Satya Priya Banerjee, Babu Khagendra Nath Das Gupta, Babu Nikunja Behari Maity and Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerjee.

(2) Babu Pratul Chandra Ganguli, Babu Sibnath Banerjee and Babu Niharendu Dutta Mazumdar.

(*b*) and (*c*) The cases of all security prisoners are under constant review and no prisoner is detained longer than necessary.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*a*)(*vii*) will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government have received a largely signed representation from members of this House requesting that their colleagues in detention may be allowed to attend meetings of this House and exercise their rights as representatives of the people?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, a representation has been received.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action Government have taken or propose to take on the petition?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: This petition was received only a few days back and the matter is being considered.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of discussing this matter with the leaders of the Opposition groups as to whether the Government should release those people forthwith?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No useful purpose would be served by this procedure.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: From the answer just now given are we to understand that Government is determined not to bring them to this House?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already said that the petition was received only the other day, and it was receiving the Chief Minister's attention.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of giving an assurance that these gentlemen will be allowed to attend the meetings of this House during this session under necessary precautions that Government may think desirable?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: The matter is receiving the Chief Minister's personal and sympathetic attention. Nothing can be said at this stage until the Chief Minister examines the position.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the honourable member be pleased to state what is his own opinion about this?

Mr. SPEAKER: He cannot give any opinion. I cannot allow it.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are his objections to bring them here under necessary precautionary measures?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have nothing further to add. I have made the position quite clear.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell the House when Babu Pratul Chandra Ganguli was arrested under Regulation III?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Is not Government aware that he was arrested in the year 1940?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Yes, Sir, probably.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Then, Sir, why is the answer given in the statement "Nil" regarding those detained for more than three years?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Some of the prisoners were first arrested as security prisoners and later on became State prisoners. Therefore, the reply "Nil" means that no State prisoner has been under detention as such for a period of three years.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us the present condition of health of Babu Khagendra Nath Das Gupta who has been suffering from time to time?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why the name of Sj. Sarat Chandra Bose does not occur in the list?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Because he is not detained by the Government of Bengal.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will Government consider the desirability of taking up his case also with the Government of India if the Government have any power to do so?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already stated many times on the floor of the House that the responsibility for the arrest and detention of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose is Government of India's and therefore the Government of Bengal has no responsibility in this matter.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Government is aware that there is a very large volume of public opinion in the country which demands that Sj. Sarat Chandra Bose and his colleagues in this House should either be forthwith released or be allowed to take part in the proceedings of this House?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: It is a matter of opinion what the honourable member means by "a large volume of public opinion".

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Bengal Government or for the matter of that the Hon'ble Home Minister is debarred from writing to the Central Government in regard to Sree Sarat Chandra Bose in this connection?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: We answer questions about matters in which we are primarily responsible.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Sj. Sarat Chandra Bose was arrested and detained without the knowledge and consent of the Government of Bengal?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose was arrested when the member sitting opposite was a part and parcel of the Government.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether Sj. Sarat Chandra Bose is being kept in detention without the consent of this Government?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have stated that the Government of India is responsible for the arrest and detention of Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose and therefore the question of consent of this Government does not arise.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when Maulana Maniruzzaman Islamabadi was arrested by the Government of India?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice as I have not got the date and I may again tell the House that the responsibility for the arrest and detention of Maulana Maniruzzaman Islamabadi is Government of India's.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to tell us whether Maulana Maniruzzaman Islamabadi was arrested with the consent or without the consent of this Government?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have already explained to the House that the question of consent of this Government does not arise.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Does the Hon'ble Minister think it desirable also to communicate with the Central Government in regard to the release or bringing of Maulana Maniruzzaman Islamabadi to this House for taking part in the deliberations of this House?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have stated that the Government of Bengal is not responsible for the detention of Maulana Maniruzzaman Islamabadi.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if the Ministers were not sure of their position, how was it possible for them to announce the policy that they would adopt in regard to the political security prisoners just on the eve of the formation of their Ministry?

Mr. SPEAKER: How does that question arise?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: They are not answering the question whether they are debarred from writing to the Central Government.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another matter.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: They have avoided the reply because the position is very delicate.

Mr. SPEAKER: You can't ask that question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: It is by way of making submission relating to the relevancy of the question.

Mr. SPEAKER: I understand that and everybody understands that. You can discuss it during the budget discussion.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the arrest and detention of Sj. Sarat Chandra Bose had anything to do with the formation of this Government?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I have stated once before that when Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose was arrested, the members sitting opposite were part and parcel of the then Government.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Just now the honourable member has told the House that the Hon'ble Chief Minister is considering about these prisoners being brought to this House on the representation of the members. Will the honourable member please tell the House when this consideration will be finished?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: That is a matter of opinion. I cannot state when the consideration will be finished, but the matter is receiving the Chief Minister's attention.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Can we expect that this consideration will be finished during the session and before the session ends?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am sorry I cannot prophesy.

Release of Babu Sailendra Nath Dutta, a security prisoner, on medical grounds.

***158. Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Home Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that Babu Sailendra Nath Datta, Midnapore, is detained in the Midnapore Central Jail as a security prisoner since his arrest on the 15th April, 1942;

(*ii*) that he before his arrest was on three months' medical leave for his treatment in Calcutta;

(*iii*) that he could not avail himself of the medical treatment because of his sudden arrest;

(*iv*) that he fell seriously ill in the month of March, 1943, and was admitted in the Jail Hospital and stayed there for months;

(*v*) that while in the hospital he had stomach trouble, nausea, spasms and pain in the left lung and pleura;

(*vi*) that he is still under medical treatment though living in the ward;

(*vii*) that the Superintendent of the Jail held that X'ray examination was necessary for proper diagnosis of his disease;

(*viii*) that this examination could not take place as the instrument in the Kharagpur Hospital was out of order;

(*ix*) that he has lost 37 lbs. in weight;

(*x*) that now he cannot walk with the help of stick even;

(*xi*) that he applied for release on medical grounds on the 22nd June, 1943, followed by several reminders on the 24th July, 20th September, 3rd November, and 20th December, 1943;

(*xii*) that his left leg is almost paralysed;

(*xiii*) that he suffers from slow fever every day and vomiting tendency and pain in the left lung and pleura, colitis and vomiting at intervals;

(*iv*) that on examination two patches were found when he was under restriction before his arrest; and

(*v*) that the father of the said prisoner has applied to the Government for the release of his son?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of arranging for the proper diagnosis of the disease of the said prisoner?

(*c*) Do the Government contemplate to release him for treatment by his guardians?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that the Superintendent of the Midnapore Central Jail has recommended his release?

(*e*) If the reply to (*d*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what action he has taken or proposes to take in the matter?

(*f*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the fact that the said prisoner has applied to the Government stating that he is a communist and supporter of the Anti-Fascist Peoples' War?

(*g*) If the reply to (*f*) is in the affirmative, is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of releasing the said prisoner?

(*h*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the said prisoner was communicated by the Government memorandum No. 14847H.J., dated Calcuttta, the 31st December, 1943, that his petition for release had been under review?

(*i*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the result thereof?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin): I refer the honourable member to my reply to an almost identical question asked by him (agenda No. 5 of the unstarred list, dated the 16th February, 1945), which was delivered on the 20th February, 1945.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer given to the unstarred question referred to here that he was having evening rise of temperature and complained of pain in the chest, will the Hon'ble Minister please state why the recommendation of the former Superintendent for his X'ray examination was not carried out?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Because after subsequent examination the present Superintendent differed with the opinion of the previous Superintendent and he was of the opinion that the prisoner was suffering from chronic Colitis and indigestion.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the former Superintendent recommended for his X'ray examination and when his successor Superintendent turned down that recommendation?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I cannot give the dates.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the difference between the two Superintendents, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why this case was not referred to a third medical man with experience and special knowledge?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Because the previous Superintendent did not arrive at any definite conclusion. He wanted an X'ray examination merely for investigation purpose because the diagnosis was not complete. The other Superintendent had a thorough examination and came to a definite conclusion that the prisoner's symptoms were gastro-intestinal and not pulmonary.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether he is even now having a rise of temperature in the evening?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice, but the information at my disposal is that he has improved and at present he can walk without the help of a stick. Previously he had to take the help of a stick, but now he can dispense with it.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state of these two Superintendents who was the senior?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he has not become lame of one leg by illness?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I do not know, but the information before me is that he can walk about without the help of a stick.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the information that he can walk without the help of a stick reached his Department?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sometime last year.

Mr. ISWAR CHANDRA MAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the prisoners coming out recently can give sufficient proof that he has become lame of one leg by illness?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I am afraid I am unable to answer that question, because the information at my disposal is a few months old. If the honourable member wants up-to-date information, I would ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what was his weight on admission and what is his present weight?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: His weight on admission was 114 lbs. and his present weight is 110 lbs.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the answer just now given will the Hon'ble Minister reconsider his case and in order to have definite diagnosis direct the Superintendent to get him examined on X'ray?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I have just also found from the report that the security prisoner is not suffering from any fever. So the question of his suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis now does not arise. His symptoms indicate that the complaint is located in the intestine.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Even if the complaint is located in the intestine, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to direct the Superintendent to get him examined and X'rayed for intestinal diagnosis?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: For intestinal diagnosis X'ray is only needed when there is any apprehension of any ulceration, but not for tubercular infection.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: In view of the fact that in the question referred to in his answer the question (*h*) has not been answered, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to answer the question (*h*)? It did not occur in the agenda No. 5, dated the 16th February, 1945.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: I ask for notice.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir——

Mr. SPEAKER: I have understood your point and everybody has understood it. You cannot discuss a question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I am not discussing, but are we debarred from making even a submission to the Speaker?

Mr. SPEAKER: It is question time and you cannot make any submission.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Simply because it is question time I cannot make any submission!

Mr. SPEAKER: You can always submit that he has not given any answer to your question.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, he has referred to a question, and in that question, question (*h*) does not occur. Now he asks for notice.

Mr. SPEAKER: Is that not discussion?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Certainly.

Mr. SPEAKER: But you cannot discuss it.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I am not discussing the question itself.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you kindly understand me? Will you resume your seat?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: I shall try to understand you.

Mr. SPEAKER: The position is simple. During question time you can only put supplementary questions in order to elicit further information arising out of the information given. Here it appears that deliberately something has not been answered——

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: No, Sir, it is not deliberately.

Mr. SPEAKER: Will you please sit down? That is his case. If that is so, you can draw the attention of the member answering the question saying that "your attention is drawn to it; will you kindly reply to that?". But you go on discussing this has not been done, that has not been done, etc. That is not the proper way. When he asks for notice, that itself means that he is not answering the question. You may treat it in any way you like, but you cannot discuss that. You can deal with that during Budget discussion.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: What I wanted to do is this: not only I wanted to bring it to the notice of Government but also to the notice of the Speaker, so that a remedy may be found.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have told you times without number that I cannot force the Government to answer questions in a particular way. The remedy lies in your hands. I can certainly say that this question has not been answered. That is all that I can say. I cannot say anything more.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: If you say that much, we shall be satisfied.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: You can say "I refuse to preside unless Government give proper replies".

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, it was not that we deliberately avoided it. We did not intend to avoid. Questions (*h*) and (*i*) were overlooked. I can answer those questions now. So far as question (*h*) is concerned, the answer is "yes" and regarding (*i*) the answer is "the petition has been rejected".

Mr. SPEAKER: That is all right. Next.

Remark of Dr. N. Sanyal.

(Question No. *159 was then called and Khan Sahib Hamiduddin Ahmed rose to read the printed answer.)

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: মামু কোথায় ?

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, may I draw your attention to the remark " মামু " again made by Dr. Sanyal? An objection was taken previously to this remark.

Mr. ABDULLA-AL-MAHMOOD: I do not think it is objectionable, because his relationship is so very close that he cannot forget it.

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. I cannot allow either the expression used by Dr. Sanyal or the retort given by Mr. Abdulla-al Mahmood. Both these should be expunged from the proceedings.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why Sir? Under what authority? The Speaker is not Hitler. He has got to act according to rules.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is the least that I can do. Otherwise I would have asked you to withdraw.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Why Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Did'nt you say " মামু " ?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Yes, Sir.

Mr. SPEAKER: You must withdraw that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: To whom does it apply?

Mr. SPEAKER: The name of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad was called and you said " মামু ". It is not a question of laughing. It is a disgrace to the House.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: If the Minister wants to be disgraced, I cannot help it.

Mr. SPEAKER: I ask you to withdraw it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What shall I withdraw, Sir? I have not used any unparliamentary expression. You are unnecessarily getting nervous.

Mr. SPEAKER: I ask you, Dr. Sanyal, to leave the House.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I will not. You have not got the power to ask me to leave the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have asked you to withdraw. Will you not obey my order?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, I beg of you not to get excited.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have asked you to withdraw.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, may I request you to enlighten the House what is the objection in the term "Mamu"?

Mr. SPEAKER: Let me see what is there in the rules. (Pause.) In my opinion the conduct of Dr. Sanyal has been grossly disorderly and I ask him to withdraw from the House immediately.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: This is a storm in a tea-cup.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, they were talking amongst themselves.

Mr. KIRAN SANKAR ROY: Mr. Speaker, may I make a submission? The remark which Dr. Sanyal made was really made among ourselves. I think, Sir, unnecessarily too much is being made of this. In case you insist on the withdrawal of Dr. Sanyal the only course left open for us will be that we shall all withdraw from the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Roy, it is painful to the Speaker to ask an honourable member of this House to withdraw. That is most painful for the Speaker to do. You know, on a previous occasion a similar expression was used and it was withdrawn. This time again this expression has been used. It is not quite dignified to use such an expression. I hope you will agree to that. Even if it had been that it was said in a way which was not audible to me or to other members of the House, that would have been something else. But it was stated so loudly that I heard it and other members of the House also heard it. So I had to take notice of it. But I did not even take notice of it until a retort was given from the other side. So I had to say that both the expressions either from this side or from the other side will remain expunged. That was the least I could do. Then I was challenged by Dr. Sanyal that I could not expunge anything. I have seen the practice in this House that the Speaker has always said in the House that such and such expressions would be expunged. Then, again, that was challenged. The only other alternative left for me in these circumstances was to ask him to withdraw. If he had not challenged this, it would have simply remained expunged as if he had done nothing. But it was asserted, why should it be expunged? That clearly proves that it was meant for the House. Therefore it does not stand that it was not meant for the House. So, whatever that may be, if Dr. Sanyal withdraws I will certainly reconsider the case, but if he still persists, certainly I cannot be called upon to revise my decision. That is what I would request Mr. Roy to consider and to consider carefully.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, I am sitting close to Dr. Sanyal and heard him. What he said he said in a humorous way and he did not mean any offence to anybody.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another thing.

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, not only he must withdraw but he must apologise.

Mr. SPEAKER: I will hear the leader of the Congress Party.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: On a point of privilege, Sir. Have we not the right to make any remark amongst ourselves which is not unparliamentary?

Mr. SPEAKER: Do you mean to say that you can go on calling members বাদর and ছাগল and all sorts of things? I am the last person to allow that.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: He was not addressing anybody in the House. Still if you insist on that attitude we shall all be under the painful compulsion to withdraw from the House.

Mr. SPEAKER: In my opinion the expression was wrong which ought not to have been used in this House in the way it has been done, but even now I will revise my decision if Dr. Sanyal withdraws, otherwise not.

(Pause.)

Mr. SPEAKER: Let us go on with the business.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Sir, may we know whether Dr. Sanyal is a stranger or not?

Mr. SPEAKER: No, he is not a stranger.

Number of deaths, district by district, from July to December, 1943, from various diseases.

*158. **Dr. SANAULLAH:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Public Health and Local Self-Government Department be pleased to lay on the Table a statement showing, district by district, from the 1st of July, 1943, up to the 31st December, 1943,—

(*a*) the total amount spent in each month by the Government of Bengal for epidemic control; and

(*b*) the total number of deaths, month by month, due to—

(*i*) starvation,

(*ii*) malaria,

(*iii*) cholera, and

(*iv*) other diseases?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD (on behalf of the Hon'ble Khan Bahadur Maulvi Jalaluddin Ahmad): (*a*) The amount of time and labour involved in ascertaining these details is incommensurate with the value of the information sought. In any case it is impossible to give accurate figures.

(*b*) A statement showing deaths from cholera, smallpox, malaria and other causes and total deaths in each subdivision, month by month, in Bengal during 1943 is laid on the Library Table.

Deaths from starvation only were not separately recorded but have been included among deaths from other causes. Reference is invited to the answer to starred question No. 365.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: With reference to the answer that deaths from starvation only were not separately recorded, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether they will make a column in the form for recording deaths from starvation separately?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: It is impossible for the Government to have these deaths recorded separately because in each and every case certificates of medical men will be necessary but a sufficient number of people with medical knowledge is not available throughout the province.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that these informations are brought by chowkidars who have no medical knowledge at all and the case of death is dictated by the chowkidar and written by the union board office?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: In cases like cholera, fever, malaria the chowkidar's opinion may be accepted but in case of pure and simple starvation a chowkidar is not an authority and his opinion cannot be accepted and relied on.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Do the Government mean that the chowkidars have no knowledge who is starving in the locality and who is not starving?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: No, a chowkidar cannot certify a case of starvation. Deaths due to pure and simple starvation are very rare and in some cases they are attended with some other diseases.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: My question is whether the chowkidar of the locality does not know who is starving within his *mahalla* and who is not starving?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: The chowkidar may know that a man or woman may be starving but he cannot certify that death was due to starvation only.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: From answer (*a*) do I understand the Hon'ble Minister to say that information about disease and mortality is not of sufficient value for the House?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: That is not so. I request the honourable member to read the question—the total amount spent in each month by the Government of Bengal for epidemic control—month by month.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: With reference to the answers just now given about the head "Starvation," will the Government make some arrangement that there be a head "Death from starvation" in the form?

Khan Sahib HAMIDUDDIN AHMAD: Government do not think that a head would be of any help in getting at accurate figure of starvation death because all the deaths due to starvation cannot be recorded.

Withdrawal of the expression used by Dr. Nalinaksha Sanyal.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In view of the directions given to me by my leader and by my friends I do declare that I did not intend the expression that you took objection to to be heard by you even if you heard and thought fit to take serious note of it. I submit that in the absence of the Hon'ble Minister, Mr. Jalaluddin Ahmad, the expression could not have been fixed on him, but since you consider it necessary for me to withdraw those words, I do withdraw them, but I would also want to make it clear which I did submit earlier that so far as the proceedings of this legislature are concerned they must as far as practicable be true and correct report of the proceedings——

Mr. SPEAKER: That is a different matter altogether.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: And if expression or expressions have got to be expunged they should be by a proper machinery that is devised under the rules by a motion for expunction or otherwise.

Mr. SPEAKER: That is another matter.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I withdraw the expression that you took exception to.

Mr. SPEAKER: Certainly I do accept the withdrawal and I revise my decision but it would have been more graceful if it had been done immediately.

Granting dearness allowance to gurus of Burdwan Guru Training School.

***160. Mr. ADWAITA KUMAR MAJI:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Education Department aware—

(*i*) that the *gurus* of the Burdwan Guru Training School are not granted any dearness allowance or any other allowances in these days of hardship; and

(*ii*) that petition was made for granting of dearness allowance for the *gurus*?

(*b*) Is it a fact that all the institutions under Government are getting dearness allowance and other privileges in these days of scarcity?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Minister considering the desirability of sanctioning dearness allowances for the Burdwan Guru Training School?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware—

(*i*) that this year a very small number of pupils have been admitted into the training school; and

(*ii*) that the *gurus* cannot maintain themselves by the scanty stipend they get?

MINISTER in charge of the EDUCATION DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan): (*a*)(*i*) *Gurus* of the Burdwan and other Guru Training Schools are granted a compensatory allowance of Rs.3 per mensem each.

(*ii*) and (*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) (*i*) No.

(*ii*) The question of further increasing the rate of the stipend for *guru* pupils is now under consideration.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell the House how much each *Guru* is getting?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Rs.10 including the allowance.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: Do the Government think that Rs.10 including the allowance of Rs.3 is sufficient for a *Guru* to carry on with his family and teach in the *Guru* Training School?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I do not consider it sufficient.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: With reference to the answer just now given, will the Hon'ble Minister please tell the House whether he will make necessary arrangements for ration according to Government rules as other officers of Government are getting and an increment of their allowance or pay, as the case may be, to enable them to carry on with their families in these hard days?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: It has already been stated in the answer that the question of increasing the allowance is under consideration.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: When can we expect the result of this consideration?

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: I cannot give any exact date, but it will be done as soon as possible.

Women workers in coal mines.

***161. Mr. NIHARENDU DATTA MAJUMDAR:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Commerce and Labour Department be pleased to state—

(*a*) on which date the Central Government's Ordinance lifting the ban on the employment of women underground was given effect to in the coal mines in Bengal;

(*b*) what is the number of women employed underground at present in coal mines in Bengal;

(*c*) whether pregnant women are prohibited from working underground;

(*d*) what are the rates of wages paid to women working underground;

(*e*) what are the corresponding rates paid to men working underground;

(*f*) what are the quotas of rations, if any, supplied to miners—

(*i*) men, and

(*ii*) women respectively;

(*g*) whether any attempt has been made to induce more male workers to work in coal mines by providing for them—

(*i*) increased wages,

(*ii*) suitable grants of rations,

(*iii*) proper housing, and

(*iv*) any other amenities for their families;

(*h*) what welfare measures, if any, have been taken for the benefit of women miners in practice up till now; and

(*i*) how many hours at a stretch are (*i*) men, and (*ii*) women respectively made to remain underground in coal mines in Bengal?

MINISTER in charge of the COMMERCE and LABOUR DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. K. Shahabuddin): (*a*) On the 24th November, 1943, by the Government of India, Department of Labour, notification No. M.5731, issued under section 46 of the Indian Mines Act, 1923 (IV of 1923).

(*b*) Approximately 6,000.

(*c*) Sections 3 and 4 of the Mines Maternity Benefit Act, 1941 (XIX of 1941), regulate the employment of women working underground before and after delivery. Under those provisions they may obtain leave for a month before delivery and are prohibited from being employed during the four weeks following delivery.

(*d*) and (*e*) Where females have replaced males underground they are entitled to the same wages as men. The wages of women employed underground vary from annas 12 to annas 15 a day.

(*f*) Basic standard ration available on payment of controlled prices—

Weekly.—4 seers for each worker (male or female), 4 seers for each adult dependant and 2 seers for each child between 2 years and 12 years.

The standard ration is composed of rice, wheat or wheat products, gram, or maize provided that the maximum amount of rice included in the basic ration does not exceed 2 seers per adult both for workers and their dependants. There is also a ration of *dal* ¼ of the basic ration at concession rate of 6 seers per rupee. In addition ½ seer of rice or other foodgrain is provided free to manual workers for each attendance at the mine.

(*g*) Fity per cent. dearness allowance over the pre-war rates of 1939, has been given to all workers, whether piece rate or daily rate.

A bonus is granted to coal miners at the following rates:—

Annas 2 for each day he attends work, if without dependant.

Annas 3 for each day he attends work, if with one adult dependant, or child or children.

Annas 5 for each day he attends work, if with one adult dependant and child or children.

A Coal Mines Labour Welfare Advisory Board has been formed by the Central Government and a Coal Mines Welfare Commissioner with adequate staff has been appointed to look after the general welfare of the colliery labour, including housing, medical and other amenities. Separate bathing places for men and women and creches are also being constructed. Contri-

butions for the welfare fund are levied from the coal mines owners at the rate of annas four per ton of coal raised under the Coal Mines Welfare Fund Ordinance.

(*h*) *Vide* reply to (*g*) above.

(*i*) A maximum of nine hours for both men and women in accordance with the provisions of the Indian Mines Act.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if he is aware that during recent weeks a great deal of agitation has been made by the All-India Women's Conference and other women's organisations in Calcutta as well as outside against the employment of women in the coal mines?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I have seen certain representations made in this connection, but may I add in this connection that as far as we are concerned we are not primarily responsible for the mine labourers who are the concern of the Government of India.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is a fact that labour welfare workers belonging to recognised trade unions are prveented by the Bengal Government police and other agents of the Bengal Government from going to the habitation of labour workers in the coal mines even to enquire whether the promised bonuses and additional amenities in connection with the employment of women labour underground have been paid or acted up to?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I am not aware of it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the managers of collieries of some reputed firms including Andrew Yule and Turner Morrison have ordered their agents to prevent labour workers from entering the colliery areas and from going to the habitation of labour within their jurisdiction?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I have already stated that we are not primarily concerned with labour in the coal mine areas and therefore I am unable either to confirm or to contradict the honourable member.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what attempt the Bengal Government has made to exclude women workers from coal mines?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Women workers have been employed under the Government of India's orders.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the last increment was given to these coal mine labourers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I am not in a position to give the exact date.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the Bengal Government received representations from the coal mine workers regarding their grievances about wages and dearness allowances?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I have already stated that we do not deal with this labour. If any representation reached us it must have been forwarded to the proper authorities.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Bengal Government at all received any representation?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I ask for notice.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: In relation to his answer regarding welfare work, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any maternity hospital has been started in the coal mine area up till now for the women workers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I ask for notice.

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what are the welfare works started by the welfare funds mentioned in his reply for these coal mine workers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I have given the general scheme of welfare work. I am not aware of the details.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state that the Bengal Government police interferes with these coal mine workers in joining unions or making agitation for the amelioration of their condition?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I am not aware of that.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if there is any representative of the Bengal Government on the Coal Mines Labour Welfare Board constituted by the Government of India and whether he is in a position to give the names or designations of the members thereof?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: The necessary information is not available, but if the honourable member wants I can supply him the information later.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Who administers the Coal Mines Welfare Fund from out of which welfare work amongst the coal miners is supposed to be carried on?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: There must be some authority, and that is the Government of India and not the Bengal Government.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Has the Bengal Government taken any steps to alleviate the conditions or improve the amenities of coal mine workers within the Bengal area?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: From time to time we draw the attention of the Central Government to questions that we consider necessary for immediate attention. Beyond that it is not within our jurisdiction to take any action.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Who is responsible for the construction of separate bathing places as mentioned in the answer? Is it the Bengal Government or the Government of India?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I take it that it must be the Government of India.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: What is the present position of the construction?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I am not in a position to answer that.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: With reference to answer (*c*), will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether during the pre and post period of recess these women workers are given any allowance or wages?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: They are paid according to the provisions of the Act.

Mr. DHIRENDRA NATH DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister please tell us with reference to answer (*e*) what are the rates of wages paid to women workers underground and the corresponding wages of men workers?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: I want notice.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that colliery owners are now being provided with large amounts of profits and are in a position to provide better wages and improved benefits as well as rations on the scale stated in the answer?

Mr. SPEAKER: The latter part is a matter of opinion.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: All right, Sir. The first part may be answered.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: What is the first part?

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that Government have now by the fixation of prices for coal provided very large margin of profits for colliery owners?

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: As I have stated, it is the Government of India's concern, and I do not think I should answer this question.

Adjournment Motion.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Sir, before you adjourn the House, may I enquire of you whether our Deputy Speaker, Mr. Jalaluddin Hashemy, gave notice of an adjournment motion with regard to the issue of a threat of supersession by the Bengal Government of the Calcutta Corporation if the latter body failed to agree to increase the consolidated rate by 2½ per cent. and to carry out certain other measures suggested by the Bengal Government in their entirety by the 16th March, 1945?

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. Mr. Sen, you are not in order in reading it out as I did not give my consent to it.

(At this stage the House was adjourned for 15 minutes.)

(After Adjournment.)

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Sir, the Matriculation examination begins from the 12th of this month and the employees of the Calcutta University Press have gone on strike and the situation is grave. In that connection I submitted an adjournment motion to be discussed in the House today.

Mr. SPEAKER: I know that, but in view of the fact that today is the last date of the supplementary budget, no adjournment motion can be taken up .

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Are we to understand that even if there is a grave situation in the country, you are not going to allow an adjournment motion during the voting on demands. On the 12th the Matriculation examination begins all over the province and the urgency is there. The grievances of the Press workers during the last four or five months due to the nepotism of a member—I mean, the Leader of the Nationalist group of this House who has appointed so many of his relations in the higher posts——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order, order. You cannot discuss that matter now. Will you please resume your seat?

Dr. ABDUL MOTALEB MALIK: Even if there is an urgency, will you not allow it?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already said I cannot allow it; please resume your seat.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: On a point of order, Sir. We have just now heard certain remarks regarding a certain leader of the Opposition parties and we submit that these remarks are absolutely uncalled for and at least——

Mr. SPEAKER: I have not heard it.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is very interesting. You cannot hear anything from the other side of the House but you can hear whatever is said from this side of the House—even aside talks.

Mr. SPEAKER: Again, that is a reflection on the Chair, and I cannot allow it.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: May I request you, Sir, to reconsider your decision on the adjournment motion of Mr. Syed Jalaluddin Hashemy?

Mr. SPEAKER: I cannot do that.

Extra time for discussion of Supplementary Budget Demand.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Are you going to proceed with the supplementary budget, Sir?

Mr. SPEAKER: Yes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: May we once more appeal to you to give us a longer time? I submit to you that it is extremely unfair for the Leader of the House and the Government to have allotted a very limited time for debate on the supplementary budget demands. May we request you once more whether you are in a position to extend the time and to permit us to go on with the discussion for a longer period and a larger number of days. It appears that Government could extend the time, and due to certain emergency Government did extend the time and could have done that by two or three days more. At least they could have sat for morning and evening sessions and could have permitted more reasonable debate on the supplementary budget. May we know whether you have changed your mind or Government have changed their mind in this regard at all?

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: It is no use embarrassing the Speaker on this point.

Mr. CHARU CHANDRA ROY: The leopard cannot change its spots.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, we should place on record the fact that Government offered opportunity, time and days for discussing the supplementary demands longer than what was originally decided upon.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: By whom?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, whenever representations were made we came forward with suggestions for giving the House an opportunity to discuss them. It was obvious that the honourable members on the other side had nothing to say and all that they wanted to do was to cast insinuations so that the opportunity for a reply from this side would not be available. They are now leaving the House because they know that if these were put to vote they would have found that they were in a hopeless minority. I see no reason why it was not possible for the honourable members over there to have a discussion over this matter today. We were

prepared to allot Friday from the beginning as an additional day for discussion—one more day, I say—and we were prepared to allot half an hour more every day by reducing the question hour and that would have been much more than what was originally demanded by the Whips.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: That is all false. That is all an absolute lie.

Mr. SPEAKER: These terms are unparliamentary.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: I think you will not allow the Leader of the House to say anything which is not true.

Mr. SPEAKER: I am not here to bear witness to any side.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: May we ask the Leader of the House whether he agrees with the Speaker to sit till 10 p.m. tonight?

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: I want to make it absolutely clear that Government tried their level best to meet the wishes of the Opposition. Government is always eager to meet their wishes.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is the Government prepared to sit till 10 o'clock tonight? Let it be a proof of their assurances and promises and it is clear that Government wants to take advantage of the microphone to pass on to the Press that they were very generous. I would like to know here and now whether Government are prepared to sit till 10 o'clock tonight.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Not at all.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor——

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: In view of the attitude taken up by Government we again submit to you that no useful purpose would be served by carrying on this sham and mockery of a budget debate. Money has been spent extravagantly——

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Shut up.

Babu NARENDRA NARAYAN CHAKRAVARTY: বেরিয়ে যাও।

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: We will kick you all out——(At this stage there was an uproar in the House.)

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: It is not a Secretariat building.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Get out.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Sir, he is a turncoat, he is a man of loose character and he is talking to others in a strain of nuisance. We are not prepared to put up with this kind of thing. We want you to take a note of this. You get upset with little things from this side of the House but you have no courtesy to call the other side to order. You cannot prevent a Minister who indulges in expressions of this kind.

Mr. SPEAKER: I have already asked them to shut their mouths and I am doing it even now. They are now silent but that has come as a provocation from this side.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: There was no provocation.

Mr. SPEAKER: I order only that members should be orderly. Otherwise it is impossible for any Speaker to maintain order. If order is to be maintained, it has to be maintained by the members themselves.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Not merely by the Opposition members.

Mr. NISHITHA NATH KUNDU: Sir, what was the provocation? We were going out after making a statement——

Mr. SPEAKER: Order please. When I say "order", I mean members will kindly behave in an orderly manner. That is what is expected, otherwise it is not possible for any Speaker to maintain order.

Dr. NALINAKSHA SANYAL: Is Mr. Speaker's attention attracted towards the Opposition only?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: We bow down to your ruling, Sir. But may I request you in all humility to ask the Hon'ble Minister to withdraw that expression?

Mr. SPEAKER: What expression?

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: "Get out"

Mr. SPEAKER: I think it was absolutely wrong on the part of any member to use that expression. No member has got any right to ask any other member to get out of the House.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: Will you ask him to withdraw that expression?

Mr. SPEAKER: Somebody may say "get out", his order has not got to be obeyed. It is Mr. Speaker's order only that has got to be obeyed.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: But has he not insulted the Chair by using that expression?

Mr. SPEAKER: I have said times without number that it is absolutely wrong on the part of any member to ask any other member to get out of the House. It is absolutely without any authority. But how can there be the question of withdrawal? I do not find anything for withdrawal. If you say "get out", that is a disorderly conduct, no doubt.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: But he must be punished if it is a disorderly conduct. When you say that it is disorderly conduct, it is up to you to take action against him.

Mr. SPEAKER: It is extremely unfortunate that members should behave in the way they are doing. It has been absolutely wrong on the part of the members of this side of the House (pointing to the Treasury benches) to say "get out". Similarly, very highly objectionable expressions have been used by the other side also. If I am to take action when the House is in such a melee and disorder, then the only course that I can adopt is to adjourn the House.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, I humbly withdraw the words and I only wish to say in extenuation that there was sufficient provocation from the other side. I humbly withdraw in deference to your wishes.

Mr. ATUL CHANDRA SEN: While we do not agree that there was any provocation, we accept his explanation.

(At this stage the members of the Opposition walked out.)

DEMAND FOR GRANTS.

25—General Administration—General Administration.

The Hon'ble Khwaja Sir NAZIMUDDIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor I beg to move that a sum of Rs.34,34,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" during the current year.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs.34,34,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about compacting of officers of a particular community in a certain area like Chittagong, specially Sadar B subdivision, which strike popular sentiments in this critical time.

I also beg to move that the demand of Rs.34,34,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about neglect of Government in making extension of Muslim prayer room in the court building, Chittagong.

I also beg to move that the demand of Rs.34,34,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about reduction of unnecessary and unreasonable expenditure of the Government.

I also beg to move that the demand of Rs.34,34,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" during the current year be reduced by Rs.100 to raise a discussion about annexation of Union Nos. 1, 2 and 3 of police-station Patiya to police-station Anwara jurisdiction for convenience and facility of the public.

I also beg to move that the demand of Rs.34,34,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" during the current year be reduced by Rs.1,77,000 to reduce publicity expenditure.

I also beg to move that the demand of Rs.34,34,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" during the current year be reduced by Rs.57,000 for abolition of the post of Parliamentary Secretaries and pay of the members.

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমি আমার মোশনের ৫২।৫৩।৫৫।৬১।৬৩।৬৫ নং এক সঙ্গে move করিতেছি। আমার ক্ষুদ্র ক্ষুদ্র মোশনগুলির মধ্যে অনেক বিষয় আছে। প্রথমে আমি অনারেবল্ স্যার নাজিমুদ্দীন, যাঁর হাতে আজ সম্পূর্ণ বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট এসেছে, তাঁকে ২।১টী কথা নিবেদন করছি। তাঁহার ধারণা যে আমি তাঁহার দলের লোক নই বলিয়া এই সব বলিতেছি। কিন্তু প্রকৃত পক্ষে তাহা নহে। আজ বাংলা দেশের জনমত বাংলার শাসনের সম্পূর্ণ বিপরীত হইয়া দাঁড়াইয়াছে এ কথা তাঁহারা মনে করিতে পারিতেছেন না। তিনি যে জায়গায় যান না কেন, তাঁর দলের লোক জনকয়েক এবং কতকগুলি স্কুলের ছাত্র ও সাধারণ জুটিয়া হৈ হৈ, রৈ, রৈ, করিয়া তাঁহাকে অভ্যর্থনা করিয়া থাকে। কিন্তু যাঁরা বাংলা দেশের leading gentlemen, যাঁরা বাংলা দেশের তত্ত্ব রাখেন তাঁরা নিশ্চয়ই জানেন যে বাংলার বর্ত্তমান শাসননীতি ন্যায়ভাবে পরিচালিত হইতেছে না। এই বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্ট আগে ১১ কোটি হইতে ১৩ কোটি টাকার মধ্যে পরিচালিত হইত। সেই টাকা বাড়িয়া এখন ২০০ কোটি টাকার উপর দাঁড়াইয়াছে এবং ইহার সমস্ত দোষগুণের দায়ী কি স্যার নাজিমুদ্দীন নন? যদি বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের আয় কম থাকিত তাহা হইলে এত ব্যয় বাড়াইবার কোন যুক্তিসঙ্গত কারণ থাকিত না। কিন্তু এখন অসংখ্য বিভাগ বাড়াইয়া দরকারী-বেদরকারী অসংখ্য লোক নিযুক্ত করা হইয়াছে। বাংলা গভর্ণমেণ্টের যে পরিমাণ আয় সেই পরিমাণ ব্যয় করিবার জন্য অনারেবল্ স্যার নাজিমুদ্দীনকে এবং তাঁহার দলবল সকলকে অনুরোধ করিয়াছি। সঙ্গে সঙ্গে আমি ২।১টী বিষয় তাঁহাদের কর্ণগোচর করিতেছি।

টাকার দিকটা বাদ দিলেও শাসনের দিক দিয়া তাঁদের যে অন্যায় অবিচার আরম্ভ হইয়াছে তাহার জাজ্বল্য প্রমাণ উপস্থিত করিতেছি। চট্টগ্রাম ডিভিশনে Additional District Magistrate হইতে আরম্ভ করিয়া একটী মুসলমান কর্ম্মচারী নাই—Additional District Magistrate, Subdivisional Officer, Circle Officer, Sub-Registrar সবই হিন্দু। অন্যান্য জেলার প্রতি লক্ষ্য করিলে দেখা যায় যে District Magistrate, Additional District Magistrate হইতে আরম্ভ করিয়া সব জায়গায় শেষ পর্য্যন্ত মুসলমান রহিয়াছে। এই অবস্থায় ব্রীক জাতির আর এক জাতির প্রতি যে অন্যায় অত্যাচার করছে তা ওঁরা দেখিয়াও দেখিতেছেন না। আমি গত বৎসর অনারেবল্ স্যার নাজিমুদ্দীনকে এ বিষয়ে নিবেদন করিয়াছিলাম কিন্তু তিনি আমার কথায় কর্ণপাত করেন নাই। তিনি খেয়াল করেন যে আমি তাঁহার দলে নই, সেইজন্য তিনি আমার অনুরোধ রক্ষা করিলেন না। ডিভিশনে যে সমস্ত Additional District Magistrate দেওয়া হইয়াছে তাহারা I.C.S. নন, একজন ডেপুটী ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটকে Additional District

Magistrate করা হইয়াছে, তিনিও I.C.S. নন। Second Additional District Magistrate এক জন I.C.S.কে দেওয়া হইয়াছে। Serviceএর seniority লক্ষ্য করিলে দেখা যায় যে অনেক সময় জুনিয়র ইংরাজ I.C.S.কে First Additional District Magistrate করা হইয়াছে। এ বিষয়ে ন্যায় অন্যায়ের তারতম্য খুঁজিয়া উঠা কঠিন।

এই সঙ্গে আর একটী কথা বলিতেছি। চট্টগ্রাম মিউনিসিপ্যালিটীতে বহু দিন হইতে মুসলমান চেয়ারম্যান ছিলেন। মৌলবী নুর আহম্মদ ছিলেন। তার পরে গভর্ণমেণ্ট যখন মিউনিসিপ্যালিটী হাতে লয়েন তখন একজন হিন্দু ডেপুটী ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটকে সেই পদ দেওয়া হয়। হিন্দু ডেপুটী ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট বেসব অসৎ ব্যবহার করিয়াছে তাহার বিরুদ্ধে অনেক allegation করা হয়। প্রকাশ্যভাবে সংসঙ্গ আশ্রমের মেয়ে এবং অন্য মেয়েছেলেদের নিয়ে টানাটানি হয়, সেই জন্য মামলা-মোকর্দ্দমাও হয়, তথাপি তাঁকে সরান হয় নি। ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট রিপোর্ট করেন, Transfer Order gazetted হয়, খাঁ বাহাদুর জালালুদ্দীন আহম্মদ সাহেব প্রশ্নের উত্তরে বলেন, গভর্ণমেণ্টের prestige রক্ষার জন্য তাহাকেই দেওয়া হয়। তাঁর অত্যাচারে চট্টগ্রামের হিন্দু-মুসলমান মহিলা স্কুলের ছাত্রিগণ, আশ্রমের মহিলাগণের থাকিবার উপায় নাই। তার সাক্ষী খাঁ বাহাদুর ফজলল্ কাদের সাহেব আছেন এবং মৌলভী নুর আহম্মদ সাহেবও আছেন। আমি এইমাত্র বলি যে হিন্দু হউন, মুসলমান হউন, যে কোন অবস্থায় সাধারণের প্রতি লক্ষ্য করাই সকল জাতির কর্ত্তব্য।

তারপর নামাজের জন্য ছুটী দিবার ব্যবস্থা থাকা উচিত, এ হাউসেও সে ব্যবস্থা রহিয়াছে। হাইকোর্টে নামাজের ব্যবস্থা হইয়াছে, রাইটার্স বিল্ডিংএ নামাজের জন্য যে ঘর ছিল তাহা আপনাদের মন্ত্রিত্বকালে বাড়াইয়া দিয়াছেন। অথচ চট্টগ্রাম কোর্ট বিল্ডিং একটা প্রকাণ্ড বিল্ডিং, সেখানে অন্ধকূপের মত একটা ছোট ঘর দেওয়া হইয়াছে। এই হাউসের এক প্রশ্নের উত্তরে জানান হয় যে যখন এই ঘর দেওয়া হয় তখন মুসলমান অফিসার ছিল মাত্র ৪০ জন, কিন্তু এখন মুসলমান অফিসারের সংখ্যা প্রায় ২৫০, তা ছাড়া উকীল, মোক্তার আমলা অনেক বেড়েছে। অথচ ঘর এখনও বাড়ান হয় নি। ১৯৩৪ সালে আমি এই বিষয়ে একটী resolution আনিতে চাহিয়াছিলাম। গভর্ণমেণ্ট তখন প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়াছিলেন যে এই ঘর বাড়াইয়া নামাজের স্থান করিয়া দেওয়া হইবে। কিন্তু এ যাবৎ তাঁহার কোন ব্যবস্থা করা হয় নাই। গত সেসনেও আমার এক প্রশ্নের উত্তরে গভর্ণমেণ্ট জানান যে ব্যবস্থা করা হইবে। তাঁহারা হয়ত বলিতে পারেন যে গভর্ণমেণ্ট বিল্ডিংএ স্থান করিয়া দেওয়া অসম্ভব; তদুত্তরে বলিতে চাই যে মালখানা যেটা রহিয়াছে সেখানে মালের মধ্যেত আছে ভোটের বাক্স এবং ব্যালট্ পেপার। এই জন্য একটা প্রকাণ্ড ঘর আটকান রহিয়াছে। ব্যালট্ পেপার চুরি করিবার জিনিস নয়। যে কোন একটা শেডে (shed) রাখিয়া সেই রূম নামাজের জন্য ছাড়িয়া দিতে গভর্ণমেণ্টের কোন আপত্তির কারণ থাকিতে পারে না। এই অবস্থায় এইরূপ উদাসীন গভর্ণমেণ্ট যাঁহারা বাংলাদেশের এত লোকের জীবন ও ধর্ম্ম লইয়া খেলা করে তাহা কোন ক্রমেই বাঞ্ছনীয় নহে এবং ইহা তাঁহাদের পক্ষে নিতান্ত লজ্জাকর বিষয়। আশা করি তাঁহারা এ বিষয়ে তদন্ত করিয়া এবং আমার কথার সত্যতা নির্দ্ধারণ করিয়া একটা সুব্যবস্থা করিবেন।

এই প্রসঙ্গে শাসন নীতির আর একটী বিষয় আলোচনা করিতে চাই। চট্টগ্রাম সদর কোতোয়ালী থানা, সদর মুনসেফের jurisdiction সদর সাবডিভিশনের সঙ্গে লাগা দুই শত হাতের মাঝখানে কতজা যে সব এলাকা আছে কর্ণফুলীর দক্ষিণ তীরে সেই অঞ্চলের লোকদের সিকি মাইলের মাঝখানে তাদের মুনসেফ কোর্ট, ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট কোর্ট এবং থানা সব নিকটে রাখিয়া তাদের ৩০।৪০।৫০ মাইল দূর যাতায়াত করিতে হয়। এ বিষয়ে ১৯৩৩ সালে এক resolution আনিয়াছিলাম। তখন গভর্ণমেণ্ট প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়াছিলেন যে এ বিষয়ে তদন্ত করিয়া এটাকে সদরের jurisdictionএ আনাইবেন। কারণ, তাহা হইলে লোকে quarter of a mileএর মাঝখানে সব facility পাইবে। প্রত্যেক জেলায় দেখা যায়, বিশেষতঃ যেখানে মন্ত্রীদের বাড়ী সেই সব এলাকায়, যেমন ঢাকা জেলায়, ময়মনসিংহ জেলায়, ফরিদপুর জেলায়, কোন কোন ক্ষেত্রে থানাকে ভাগ করিয়া দেওয়া হইয়াছে, সবডিভিশনকে ভাগ করিয়া দেওয়া হইয়াছে, কিন্তু চট্টগ্রামের দুর্ভাগ্য যে quarter of a mileএর মধ্যে থাকা সত্ত্বেও বহু দূর পথ তাহাদের যাইতে হয়। সে বিষয়ে তদন্ত করিয়া সদরের সঙ্গে যোগ করিয়া দিন। এ বিষয়ে খাঁ বাহাদুর জালালুদ্দীন আহম্মদ সাহেবের অভিজ্ঞতা আছে, খাঁ বাহাদুর সাহেবের শ্বশুর বাড়ী সেখানে। আমার বিশ্বাস তিনি নিশ্চয় তাঁহার দেশের লোকের দুরবস্থার প্রতি লক্ষ্য করিয়া তাহার সুব্যবস্থা করিবেন।

এই প্রসঙ্গে একটা ব্যয়-বাহুল্যের কথা বলিতেছি।

Mr. SPEAKER : খাঁ বাহাদুর সাহেব! আজকে ৬।টায় শেষ করতে হবে।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY : আমার আধ ঘণ্টার বেশী লাগবে না। আমি ভিন্ন আর কেহ বলিবার নাই।

এই হাউসের মেম্বরদের বেতন বৃদ্ধির প্রস্তাব যখন হয় তখন আমি সম্পূর্ণ আপত্তি করিয়াছিলাম। তাহাতে তাঁহারা ঠাট্টা-বিদ্রূপ করিয়া উড়াইয়া দিয়াছিলেন। এই প্রসঙ্গে বলিতেছি যে পার্লামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারীগণকে প্রায়ই হইগোল করিতে বা কেরাণীগিরী কাজ করিতে না দিয়া বা চাপরাশীর মত সঙ্গে সঙ্গে দৌড়াদৌড়ির কাজ না দিয়া তাদের বড় বড় চাকরী দিয়া যাতে মোটা income হয় তার ব্যবস্থা করুন। এখানে মন্ত্রিগণ না থাকিলে পার্লামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারী দ্বারা সব কাজ করাইয়া লইতেছেন। যদি তাঁদের দ্বারা কাজ চলে তাহলে মিনিষ্টারের আবশ্যকতা আমি দেখি না। আর যদি মন্ত্রী না হ'লে কাজ না চলে তাহলে পার্লামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারীর আবশ্যকতা কি তা বুঝিতেছি না। থাকিলেও যতজন মন্ত্রী ততজন পার্লামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারী হইতে পারে, তার চেয়ে বেশী লোক হইতে পারে না। এ ছাড়া যদি তাদের এই বেতনে সঙ্কুলান না হয় তাহলে তাদের নিজ নিজ যে পৈত্রিক আয় আছে সেই নিয়ে তারা ঘরে যাক বা চাকরী নিয়ে পালাক। এখানে হইগোল করিয়া এবং ঠাট্টা-বিদ্রূপ করিয়া, ১ ঘণ্টা কি ২ ঘণ্টা কাজ করিয়া এতগুলি টাকা এবং এত T.A., বিশেষতঃ তাদের নিজের নিজের কাজের জন্য যাতায়াত করার জন্য সরকারী তহবিল হইতে T.A. খরচ করা উচিত নহে। লীগের মিটিং করিতে খাঁ বাহাদুর আবদুর রহমন সাহেব গিয়াছিলেন এবং খবর লইয়া জানিয়াছি সেই যাতায়াতের খরচ গভর্ণমেণ্ট হইতে T.A. Billএর দ্বারা আদায় হইয়াছে। এরূপ অপব্যয়ের কোন অর্থ বুঝি না। গভর্ণমেণ্টের কাজ ছাড়া নিজেদের কাজে তাঁহারা যেখানেই যাতায়াত করুন না কেন সে সকলের ব্যয় গভর্ণমেণ্ট কেন বহন করিতেছেন? এই অপব্যয় নিবারণের জন্য আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টকে বার বার অনুরোধ করিতেছি। আশা করি এ সকল সংশোধন করিয়া ভবিষ্যতে এ সম্বন্ধে সুব্যবস্থা করিবেন।

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I am afraid, I have not been able to follow the honourable member properly, but from what I could follow, I find that he has referred to the posting of some officers belonging to a particular community in a certain station. In this connection, Sir, I may state that the Government's usual procedure in practice is to post at any particular station officers belonging to two or three different communities, but in these days of emergency Government are very short-handed with regard to officers. Therefore, it may sometimes happen that in some particular station two or three officers belonging to particular communities may be posted there, but every endeavour is made to post officers of different communities in a particular station.

So far as item No. 65 is concerned, the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Communications Department will reply to that.

With regard to item No. 61 regarding transfer of certain unions from the jurisdiction of police-station Patiya to police-station Anwara, I am afraid we have not got sufficient time to call for a report from the District Officer. Therefore, I am unable to give any information or answer to the suggestion made by the honourable member.

With regard to the question of abolition of the posts of Parliamentary Secretaries, I think the subject has been discussed on the floor of the House before and it is needless for me to say anything further. Recently the salaries of the Parliamentary Secretaries have been increased, but that has been done after the House has accepted a Bill for the enhancement of the salaries of the members and therefore I think the House will not grudge the increment paid to the Parliamentary Secretaries.

Sir, I oppose all the cut motions moved by Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 34,34,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about compacting of officers of a particular community in a certain area like Chittagong specially Sadar B subdivision, which strike popular sentiments in this critical time, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 34,34,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General

Administration" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about neglect of Government in making extension of Muslim prayer room in the court building, Chittagong, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 34,34,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about reduction of unnecessary and unreasonable expenditure of the Government, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 34,34,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about annexation of Union Nos. 1, 2 and 3 of police-station Patiya to police-station Anwara jurisdiction for convenience and facility of the public, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 34,34,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 1,77,000 to reduce publicity expenditure, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 34,34,000 for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 57,000 for abolition of the posts of Parliamentary Secretaries and pay of the members, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin that a sum of Rs. 34,34,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "25—General Administration" during the current year, was then put and agreed to.

50—Civil Works.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PRASANNA PAIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 23,09,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "50—Civil Works" during the current year.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 23,09,000 for expenditure under the head "50—Civil Works" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the construction of shorter Arakan Road *via* Kalarpol, Peshkarhat, Chandpur, Jaldi, Barabakia to Charinga in Chittagong to facilitate communication to Akyab by a much shorter road.

Sir, I beg also to move that the demand of Rs. 23,09,000 for expenditure under the head "50—Civil Works" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the necessity of extension of court building prayer room, necessity of which is felt most keenly.

I beg further to move that the demand of Rs. 23,09,000 for expenditure under the head "50—Civil Works" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the Dalu and Sharta bridges in the district of Chittagong which are indefinitely postponed in spite of essential necessity.

আমার নামের ১৩৩।৩৪।৩৫নং মোশন একসঙ্গে move করিতেছি।

Mr. SPEAKER : খাঁ বাহাদুর সাহেব! ৬।।টার মধ্যে শেষ করতে হবে, ৫ মিনিটে শেষ করুন।

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY : স্যার! আমার ৫ মিনিটের বেশী সময় লাগবে না। আমি অনেকক্ষণ চেঁচামেচি করিয়া দেখিলাম কোন ফলোদয় হইবে না। মুসলমান পার্লামেণ্টারী সেক্রেটারী আছেন; তাঁর কাছে নামাজের কথা উত্থাপন করিলে তিনি উত্তর দিলেন--এটা আমার হাতে না, এটা হিন্দুর হাতে--এই মুসলমানের নামাজের স্থানটা কাজেই এখন হিন্দু মহোদয়কে বলিতেছি--যে তাঁহার হাতে এই কোর্ট রুম বাড়াইয়া দেওয়ার ক্ষমতা রহিয়াছে। কাজেই হিন্দু হউন, মুসলমান হউন--সকল

ধর্ম্মের প্রতি তাঁহার অগাধ ভক্তি আছে--আমি অনুরোধ করি যে পরিশ্রম ছাড়া, খরচ ছাড়া যে জিনিষটা সহজে গভর্ণমেণ্টের দ্বারা হইতে পারে তাহা করিয়া দিয়া ধর্ম্মপ্রাণ নামাজীগণের—বিশেষতঃ শুক্রবারের জুম্মার নামাজের ব্যবস্থা করিয়া ধন্য হউন এবং অফিসার, ক্লার্ক প্রভৃতি সকলেরই ধন্যবাদভাজন হউন।

এই প্রসঙ্গে আমি বলিতে চাই--বোধ হয় তাঁহারা শুনিবেন না, আমার প্রস্তাব oppose করিবেন--কেননা চোরা না শোনে ধর্ম্মের কাহিনী--তথাপি তাঁহারা কানে আঙ্গুল দিলেও এবং চোখে হাত দিলেও আমি সে কথা বলিয়া যাইব। সে জিনিষটা হচ্ছে যে চট্টগ্রামের সঙ্গে ব্রহ্মদেশে যাতায়াতের কত দরকার তা অনুমান করিতে পারেন। এতদিন Burmaর সঙ্গে rail connection হয় নাই। একমাত্র আরাকান রোড নামে অভিহিত অতি পুরাকালের মোগল সম্রাটদিগের সময়ের রাস্তা যাহা আঁকিয়া বাঁকিয়া গিয়াছে সেই রাস্তাই ছিল। কিন্তু একটা short cut আছে যেটা দ্বারা আকিয়াব যাতায়াতে ১/৪ রাস্তা কমিয়া যাইবে। সেই রাস্তা ১৩৩নং মোশনে উল্লেখ করা হইয়াছে। চট্টগ্রামের সদর হইতে আরম্ভ করিয়া--কালাজের, বরবেচিয়া, সারদ্দিয়া দিয়া গিয়া আরাকান রোডের সঙ্গে মিলিত হইয়াছে, বর্ত্তমানে যে আরাকান রোড পটিয়া হইয়া আঁকিয়া বাঁকিয়া ৪০ মাইল দূর দিয়া গিয়াছে সেই রাস্তা হইতে অন্ততঃ ১৫ মাইল কমিয়া যাইবে। এই অবস্থায় কতকগুলি রাস্তার খরচ কমিয়া যাইবে। একথা বার বার বলা সত্ত্বেও তাহারা oppose করিতেছেন। কিন্তু রাস্তা ত আমার বাপ দাদার জন্য নয়, ব্রিটিশ সাম্রাজ্যের শাসনের সুবিধার জন্য। ন্যায়ের খাতিরে আপনারা ইহা oppose করিতে পারেন না। জেলার ম্যাপ থাকিলে আমি চোখে আঙ্গুল দিয়া দেখাইতে পারিতাম যে যে রাস্তার প্রস্তাব দিয়াছি উহা আকিয়াব যাতায়াতের short cut. খাঁ বাহাদুর মৌলবী জালালুদ্দীন সাহেব ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট বোর্ডের চেয়ারম্যান থাকাকালে এই রাস্তাটি সেকেণ্ড রাস্তা হিসাবে আরম্ভ করিয়াছিলেন। কিন্তু দুর্ভাগ্যক্রমে তিনি সেই পদ ত্যাগ করিয়া এখানে মিনিষ্টারের গদীতে আসিয়াছেন। সেটা চট্টগ্রামের পক্ষে দুর্ভাগ্য। দুর্ভাগ্য এই কারণে যে তিনি মিনিষ্টারী পাওয়ার সৌভাগ্য লাভ করিয়াছেন বটে, কিন্তু পাইলে কি হইবে? তাঁহার কোন কাজ করিবার হাত নাই। তাহলে কি কেবল ঢাকা ডিভিশনেরই হাত আছে? মন্ত্রী মহোদয়গণকে বলিলে বলেন--ইহাতে আমাদের হাত নাই, ইহাতে ফজলুর রহমানের হাত। অনারেবল তমিজুদ্দিন খাঁ বা অনারেবল তারকনাথ মুখার্জি সকলেরই ঐ এক কথা যে ফজলুর রহমানের হাত। কাজেই ফজলুর রহমান সাহেব এতদিন যখন রাজত্ব চালাইতেছেন তিনি দয়া করিয়া একবার অন্ততঃ এরোপ্লেনে করিয়া যদি রাস্তাটা না দেখেন তাহলে আমার অরণ্যে রোদন। আমি আশা করি ফজলুর রহমান সাহেব নিজে গিয়া সেই রাস্তা দেখিয়া চীফ মিনিষ্টার বা যে কোন মিনিষ্টারের তাঁকে দিয়া ইহা করাইয়া লইবেন। অবশ্য ভোটারদের প্রতি আমাদের একটা কর্ত্তব্য আছে, সেই জন্যই বকাবকি করিতে হয়। সত্যকে শ্রবণ করান আমাদের কর্ত্তব্য। কিন্তু কোন কাজ আদায় হওয়া সম্ভব নয় এই গভর্ণমেণ্টের হাতে। আল্লা যদি গজব ঢালেন এবং এই মন্ত্রিসভা ভেঙ্গে দেন তাহা হইলে যেদিন সব দলের মিলিত গভর্ণমেণ্ট হইবে সেইদিন আমাদের দুঃখের কাহিনী শুনিবে।

এই প্রসঙ্গে আরও বলিতেছি খাঁ বাহাদুর জালালুদ্দিন সাহেব ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট বোর্ডের চেয়ারম্যান থাকার সময় দলু ব্রিজ নামে ব্রিজের স্কীম করিয়াছিলেন। বোটর ট্যাক্সের টাকা হইতে সেই ব্রিজের জন্য ৫৩ হাজার টাকা মঞ্জুর করা হয়। কিন্তু সুদীর্ঘ ১২ বৎসর যাবৎ ইহার কিছুই হয় নাই। যুদ্ধের ৩।৪ বৎসর যাবৎও ব্রিজের কিছুই হয় নাই। ইহা কেবল পাবলিকের জন্য নহে, গভর্ণমেণ্ট কর্ম্মচারীদের এবং যুদ্ধের জন্য যাতায়াতের পক্ষে এই Dolu bridge বিশেষ দরকারী। ইহা সাতকানিয়া ও আনোয়ারার একমাত্র সংযোগ পথ। সেই bridgeএর স্কীম যে কোন্ অতল গহ্বরে পড়িয়া আছে জানি না। আশা করি এই স্কীমের কাগজগুলি বাহির করিয়া যাহাতে এই ব্রিজ সহজে হয় তাহার ব্যবস্থা করিবেন।

তারপর সত্তা ব্রিজ বড় দরকারী। সেটা পার্ব্বত্য চট্টগ্রামের একমাত্র connection. সেই ব্রিজের জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্ট অসংখ্য টাকা ঢালিয়া দিয়াছেন। সেই ব্রিজ permanent করার জন্য ৮০ হাজার টাকা মঞ্জুর করা হইয়াছে। এই ব্রিজ লইয়া আপনারা খেলাখেলির কাজ করিবেন না, গভর্ণমেণ্টের কোটি কোটি টাকা ইহাতে ডুবাইয়া দিয়াছেন। ফেব্রুয়ারী মাস আরম্ভ হইলে ব্রিজ করে, আষাঢ়-শ্রাবণ মাসে জলে ভাসিয়া যায়। এত বড় বড় বাড়ী হইতেছে, ব্রিজ দুইটার জন্য জিনিষের অভাব হইবে না। ইহার দ্বারা গভর্ণমেণ্টের ২ কোটি টাকা বাঁচিয়া যাইবে, খরচ হইবে উর্দ্ধ সংখ্যা ২।৩ লক্ষ টাকা। কাজেই অসংখ্য টাকা প্রত্যেক বৎসর জলে না ফেলিয়া দিয়া স্থায়ীভাবে এই ব্রীজ দুইটি করিয়া দিন।

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 23,09,000 for expenditure under the head "50—Civil Works" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the construction of a shorter Arakan Road via Kalarpol, Peshkarhat, Chandpur, Jaldi, Barabakia, to Charinga in Chittagong to facilitate communication to Akyab by a much shorter road, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 23,09,000 for expenditure under the head "50—Civil Works"

during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the necessity of extension of court building prayer room, necessity of which is felt most keenly, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 23,09,000 for expenditure under the head "50—Civil Works" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about Dalu and Sharta bridges in the district of Chittagong which are indefinitely postponed in spite of essential necessity, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prosanna Pain that a sum of Rs. 23,09,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "50—Civil Works" during the current year was then put and agreed to.

37—Education—General.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 60,54,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" during the current year.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 60,54,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about suspension of education tax for Chittagong Division as it is a war zone area and mostly affected by war.

I also move that the demand of Rs. 60,54,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about inadequate grant-in-aid to Shonagazi Senior Madrasah in Noakhali district and Shaharbil Senior Madrasah in police-station Chakaria, Chittagong.

আমি আমার নামের ৮০।৮১নং এই দুটো motion move করিতেছি। আমি ৮১নং মোশনের বিষয়ে মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয়ের দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণ করিতেছি। আমি আশা করি মুসলমান ধর্মশিক্ষার সুব্যবস্থা কল্পে বাজেটে যে টাকার ব্যবস্থা নাই আগামী বাজেটে তার ব্যবস্থা করিবেন। আমার নিজের ইহাতে কোন স্বার্থ নাই, আমি এই প্রদেশের কথা যেমন দেখিতেছি সেইভাবে বলিতেছি।

নোয়াখালী জেলার সোনাখালি মাদ্রাসাতে অনারেবল স্যার নাজিমুদ্দীন গিয়াছিলেন। সেখানে মাদ্রাসার অবস্থা দেখিয়া তিনি কিছু টাকা দিবার প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়াছিলেন। কিন্তু এযাবৎ তাহারা প্রতিশ্রুতির টাকা পায় নাই। মাননীয় সোহ্‌রাওয়ার্দী সাহেবও আর একবার গিয়াছিলেন। তাঁহাকে একবার অভিনন্দন দেওয়ার জন্য তাঁহারা বহু টাকা খরচ করিয়াছিল এবং আশা করিয়াছিল যে ধর্মশিক্ষার জন্য মাদ্রাসা কিছু সাহায্য পাইবে। কিন্তু সাহায্য পাওয়া দূরে থাক অভিনন্দন দেওয়ার খরচটাও তাদের পকেট থেকে দিতে হইয়াছে। সেই লইয়া মাদ্রাসা কমিটির মেম্বরগণ হেড মাষ্টারকে বলিতেছেন--আপনি এই টাকা আপনার মাহিনা থেকে দিবেন; আপনি মিনিষ্টারকে অভিনন্দন দিয়া টাকা অপব্যয় করিয়াছেন। এই মাদ্রাসা এককালে জুনিয়র মাদ্রাসা ছিল; সেই সময় তাকে ৫০৲ টাকা grant দেওয়া হইত; তখন এই গভর্ণমেণ্ট হয় নাই। বর্ত্তমানে সেই building বাড়াইয়া সিনিয়র মাদ্রাসায় পরিণত করা হইয়াছে এবং সিনিয়র মাদ্রাসা হিসাবে সেখানে ছাত্রগণ পরীক্ষা দিয়া বৃত্তি পাইতেছে। আমাদের চিন্তা করিয়া দেখা উচিত যে একটা জুনিয়র মাদ্রাসায় ৫০৲ টাকা grant হইল এবং এখনও অনেক জুনিয়র মাদ্রাসার ১০০৲ টাকার বেশী grant আছে,--অথচ সিনিয়র মাদ্রাসারও সেই ৫০৲ টাকা grant; আর এই গভর্ণমেণ্ট হওয়ার পরেও সিনিয়র মাদ্রাসা পরীক্ষা দিয়া ছাত্রগণ বৃত্তি পাইতেছে এবং সেই হিসাবে মৌলবী মাষ্টারও রাখা হইয়াছে। বোর্ডিংএ ছাত্রগণের থাকিবার ব্যবস্থাও আছে কিন্তু সেজন্য একটা টাকাও তাঁহারা সাহায্য পান নাই। Building fundএর জন্য স্যার নাজিমুদ্দীন প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়াছিলেন যে building grant কিছু দেওয়া হইবে এবং ডিষ্ট্রীক্ট বোর্ডের ইলেকশনের সময় মাদ্রাসার মিটিং করিয়া বলা হইয়াছিল তোমরা মীগে যোগ দাও, কিছু grant দেওয়া হবে। কিন্তু তার কোন পাত্তা নাই। তাই বলি এই রকম খেলা করা, ওয়াদা দিয়াও ওয়াদা রক্ষা না করা লজ্জাজনক। আমি অনুরোধ করি মাননীয় তমিজুদ্দিন সাহেব দেখুন যে সিনিয়র মাদ্রাসার পক্ষে ৫০৲ টাকা grant যথেষ্ট নয়। তাঁহার নিজের দলের আমানুল্লা সাহেবের একটা মাদ্রাসা আছে, তার grant আছে ১০০৲ টাকা। এ রকম অবিচার-অত্যাচার গভর্ণমেণ্ট কেন করিতেছেন? আজ আমি তাঁদের চোখে আঙ্গুল দিয়া দেখাইতেছি।

এই সঙ্গে বলিতেছি বাংলা দেশে হাদিসের ক্লাশ নাই। একমাত্র সোনাগাজী মাদ্রাসায় হাদিসের ক্লাশ আছে। সেইজন্য হাদিসের ছাত্রগণকে এখন হিন্দুস্থানে যাইতে হয় না। শিক্ষা-মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের সম্পর্কিত অনেকের

জানা সত্ত্বেও সেই মাদ্রাসাকে grant দিচ্ছে না কেন? আমি একটা রেশন দিয়াছি চট্টগ্রামে শিক্ষার জন্য ট্যাক্স যাহাতে বন্ধ হয়। আমি জানি সেটা নিশ্চয় oppose করিবেন। অনেকে বলিয়াছেন হাজী যদি শিক্ষার প্রচার চায় না, কেননা গরীব লোকের তাহাতে চোখ ফুটিবে আর তখন মুস্কিল হইবে। কিন্তু আমি এই ভ্রান্ত ধারণা দূর করিতে চাই। আমি চাই শিক্ষার জন্য যথেষ্ট খরচ করা হউক এবং শিক্ষার সুব্যবস্থা করা হউক। কিন্তু সেজন্য ট্যাক্স করেন কেন? ট্যাক্স করিতে হয় কলিকাতায় করুন, সহরে করুন। পাড়াগাঁয়ের গরীব ছেলেদের জন্য ট্যাক্স করিবেন না। কিন্তু কলিকাতা মহানগরীতে গরীব ছেলেদের প্রাইমারী শিক্ষার জন্য কোন ট্যাক্স দিতে হয় না। চট্টগ্রাম মিউনিসিপ্যালিটিতে বড় বড় লোকের ছেলেরা থাকে; I. C. S., ডেপুটী ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটের ছেলেরা এবং অন্য ধনীর ছেলেরা থাকে। কিন্তু তাদের ট্যাক্স নাই। পাড়াগাঁয়ের গরীবের বেলা গরীবের গলা কাটিয়া ট্যাক্স লইয়া সেই ট্যাক্স দিয়া গরীবকে পড়াইতেছেন। মিউনিসিপ্যালিটির বেলা সেই রকম ট্যাক্স দিতে হয় না। সেখানকার ঘর পাকা ঘর নয়, কিন্তু পাড়াগাঁয়ের স্কুলের ব্যবস্থা করিতে গেলে বলা হয় টিনের ঘর দিতে হইবে। গরীবেরা তা পারে না। কাজেই বড় লোকের দু-একটা স্কুল হয়, গরীবের বেলা কিছুই নয়। আমি অনুরোধ করি যে বাংলা দেশের সব জেলায় প্রাইমারী শিক্ষা প্রবর্ত্তন করুন, এবং সঙ্গে সঙ্গে মিউনিসিপ্যালিটিকে সেই আওতার মাঝখানে নিন। যদি তা না করেন চট্টগ্রাম জেলায় বর্ত্তমান যুদ্ধের সময় ও এই দুর্ভিক্ষের সময় উহা স্থগিত করিয়া কি ফল হয় একবার পরীক্ষা করুন।

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, I formally oppose the motions. As there is no time, I would not make any speech.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 60,54,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about suspension of education tax for Chittagong Division as it is a war zone area and mostly affected by war, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 60,54,000 for expenditure under the head "37—Education—General" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about inadequate grant-in-aid to Shonagazi Senior Madrassah in Noakhali district and Shaharbil Senior Madrassah in police-station Chakaria, Chittagong, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Tamizuddin Khan that a sum of Rs. 60,54,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "37—Education-General" during the current year was then put and agreed to.

29—Police.

The Hon'ble Mr. BARADA PROSANNA PAIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 28,21,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "29—Police" during the current year.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 28,21,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100. (To raise a discussion about location of thana office at a central place to remove public inconvenience and inconvenience of inspecting officers, telegraph communication and sanitary point of view of thana officers and staff of police-station Banskhali, Chittagong.)

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমার নামে ৭৫ নং যে cut motion আছে, সেটা আমি move করছি। (INTERUPTION AND A VOICE: আপনাকে আর বক্তৃতা দিতে হবে না। আর সময় নেই, আপনি বসে পড়ুন।) আপনারা শুনুন বা না শুনুন, আমি দেওয়াল হলেও বলবো। Time কত আছে, তা আমি জানি।

আমি মাননীয় ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে বলছি, আমার ব্যক্তিগত সুবিধার জন্য বলছি না, দেশের এবং গভর্ণমেণ্টের উপকারের জন্যই বলছি। চট্টগ্রামে যে Banskhali পুলিশ ষ্টেশন আছে, সেটা এমন এক জায়গায় রাখা হয়েছে যে সেখানে যাতায়াতের পক্ষে সকলের ভীষণ অসুবিধা হয়। এ সম্বন্ধে S. P. ও D. S. P.র report আছে। এবং ডিষ্ট্রিক্ট ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেট নিজে এ বিষয়ে তদন্ত করে, এই থানাটি অন্যত্র remove করবার জন্য গভর্ণমেণ্টকে বহুবার লিখিয়াছেন কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় আজ পর্য্যন্ত গভর্ণমেণ্ট এ বিষয় কিছুই করেন নাই।

সেই থানার নিকটবর্ত্তী কোন telegraph অফিস নাই, এবং সেখানে যাতায়াতের কোন সুবিধা নাই। সেটা একটা ম্যালেরিয়ার জায়গা, বর্ষাকালে জলে ডুবে থাকে। এই থানা সম্পর্কে একটা report দেওয়া হয়েছিল, কিন্তু সেটাকে গভর্ণমেণ্ট কেন যে চেপে রেখে দিয়েছেন তা আমি বুঝতে পারছি না। বর্ত্তমানে যুদ্ধের

নগর, সকল থানার সহিত telegraphএর যোগাযোগ রাখা একান্ত প্রয়োজন। আমি আশা করি গভর্ণমেণ্ট অতি সত্বর এ বিষয়ে তদন্ত করিয়া, যাহাতে publicএর সুবিধা হয় তাহার জন্য, থানাটি স্বাস্থ্যকর ও central placeএ আনিবার ব্যবস্থা করিবেন।

Khan Bahadur MOHAMMED ALI: Sir, I formally oppose this motion.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 28,21,000 for expenditure under the head "29—Police" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Barada Prosanna Pain that a sum of Rs. 28,21,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "29—Police" during the current year was then put and agreed to.

47—Miscellaneous Departments.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 68,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "47—Miscellaneous Departments" during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

5—Salt.

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 32,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" during the current year.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 32,000 for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about the necessity of giving adequate pecuniary help, and supplying equipment for the purpose, as for example, iron pan, etc., to the people of salt-watered places to manufacture sufficient salt to make Bengal self-sufficient in this acute shortage of salt.

Sir, I also beg to move that the demand of Rs. 32,000 for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about Gandhi-Irwin Pact, dated 5th March, 1931, regarding preparation of salt as a part of cottage industry and the facility of individual to procure bare necessaries for home consumption in exchange of salt manufactured by himself.

Sir, I also beg to move that the demand of Rs. 32,000 for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the change of present system of monopoly agency of salt to a single person in one district which is the cause of black-marketing and autocracy and to select one agent from each "thana", i.e., police-station and one salt collecting agent from each union, thereby helping preparation of more salt and increase of Government duty.

Sir, I also beg to move that the demand of Rs. 32,000 for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 20,000 to reduce the number of salt warehouses which are at present the cause of corrupt practice and harassing public and thus creating panic to the people of salt area as the reduction of the number of warehouses to one only in each subdivision will be helpful to smooth and sufficient manufacture of salt relieving Government from the heavy expenditure and increasing an income of Government by manufacture of larger quantity of salt.

মাননীয় স্পীকার মহোদয়, আমি আমার নামে চার, পাঁচ, ছয় ও সাত নং cut motionগুলি একত্রে move করছি।

গত বৎসর আমি লবণ সংক্রান্ত ব্যাপার লইয়া আবকারী বিভাগের ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী মহাশয়ের সহিত বহুবার আলাপ-আলোচনা করি। Director of Industry S. P. Mitraর সহিত, চট্টগ্রামে লবণ উৎপাদনের বিষয় ল

নইয়া আলোচনা করিয়াছিলাম। কিন্তু দুঃখের বিষয় তিনি এখানে থেকে বদলি হয়ে India Government-এ চলে গিয়েছেন। তাঁর এখান থেকে চলে যাওয়ার সঙ্গে সঙ্গে, আজ বাংলা দেশে যারা লবণ খায় তাদেরও দুর্ভাগ্য যেন ক্রমশঃ বেড়েছে।

বর্ত্তমানে আবগারী বিভাগের ভারপ্রাপ্ত মন্ত্রী মহাশয়কে আমি অনুরোধ করছি বাংলা দেশে বিশেষ করে চট্টগ্রাম এলাকায় যাহাতে প্রচুর পরিমাণে লবণ উৎপন্ন হইতে পারে তাহার সত্বর ব্যবস্থা করুন। সমুদ্রতীরে যেমন এদিকে নোয়াখালি, চট্টগ্রাম এবং ওদিকে সুন্দরবন, মেদিনীপুর এলাকা, সেখানে আপনারা বর্ত্তমানে লবণের জন্য যে সমস্ত warehouses করেছেন তাতে লবণ উৎপন্নে ভয়ানক বাধা সৃষ্টি হয়েছে। (A voice: আপনার বুঝি খুব ক্ষতি হচ্ছে?) আমার নিজের personal ক্ষতি-বৃদ্ধির কথা হইতেছে না। দেশের গরীব প্রজা সাধারণ ইহাতে যথেষ্ট ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হইয়াছে।

ডিষ্ট্রিক্টএ একজন মাত্র foreign contractor রেখেছেন, এবং তার ফলে সেখানে তার monopoly রাজত্ব হওয়ায় চোরাবাজার সৃষ্টি হয়েছে। এবং সেই চোরাবাজারের সুযোগে তাঁর ইচ্ছামত এদিক ওদিক লবণ আমদানি-রপ্তানি করিবার সুযোগ হইয়াছে। সুতরাং আমি গভর্ণমেণ্টকে অনুরোধ করি প্রত্যেক ডিষ্ট্রিক্টএ একজন মাত্র contractor না রাখিয়া, প্রত্যেক থানায় একজন করিয়া contractor এবং প্রতি unionএ একজন করিয়া লবণ collecting agent রাখিবার ব্যবস্থা করা হউক।

আমি আরও বলছি যে, সমুদ্র area যথেষ্ট পরিমাণ লবণ উৎপন্ন হইবার উপায় আছে এবং আমি অনুরোধ করি আপনারা সেখানে গিয়া স্বচক্ষে দেখিয়া আসুন। যাহাতে লবণ অতিরিক্ত পরিমানে উৎপন্ন হইতে পারে, এবং বাংলা দেশের সর্ব্বত্র যাহাতে পাঁচ টাকা দরে দিতে পারেন তাহার ব্যবস্থা করুন। আপনারা যদি ইহা করিতে ভীত হ'ন, তাহা হইলে আমার সঙ্গে একটা agreement করুন, যেমন ইস্পাহানী সাহেবের সঙ্গে করেছেন। আমি জোর করে বলতে পারি যে, গত দুই বৎসরে গভর্ণমেণ্ট লবণ হইতে যে revenue পেয়েছেন তাহার double revenue আমি আদায় করে দেবো, এবং বাংলা দেশের সর্ব্বত্র পাঁচ টাকা দরে লবণ সরবরাহ করিতে পারিবো। এই জন্য আমার সঙ্গে একটা agreement করুন এবং তার জন্য earnest money পঞ্চাশ হাজার টাকা cash আমার কাছ থেকে নিন। যদি আমি contract fail করি তাহা হইলে আমি এই পঞ্চাশ হাজার টাকা দাবী করবো না। সে টাকা আপনি দরিদ্রদের দান করবেন। অতএব আমি অনুরোধ করি আপনার scheme পরিবর্ত্তন করুন। পাগলের মত যা' তা' করে একটা কাজ করে এতগুলি গরীব লোককে মেরে ফেলার কি খেয়াল তা, আমি বুঝতে পারি না। বেশী পরিমাণে লবণ উৎপন্ন করলে সমুদ্রের জল যখন কমবে না তখন ইহা করিতে কেন বাধা দিচ্ছেন? যতই লবণ উৎপন্ন হইবে ততই গভর্ণমেণ্টের আয় বাড়িতে থাকিবে। আপনারা এ বিষয় কেন চিন্তা করিতেছেন না?

আজ বাংলা দেশের চতুর্দ্দিকে অরাজকতা, চোরাবী, ডাকাতী চলেছে। সেদিন আমি দেখে ছিলাম, আমি স্বচক্ষে দেখিছি কোন স্পেশাল অফিসার তদন্ত করতে গিয়ে, একজন contractor নিজ cash থেকে তিন হাজার টাকা আমার সামনে তাঁকে দক্ষিণা দিয়াছেন। আমার সামনে এই রকম ঘুস দেওয়া হয়েছে। আমি আশা করি গভর্ণমেণ্ট এর একটা তদন্ত করবেন, এবং বাংলা দেশে লবণ অভাবে যাতে লোকে মারা না যায় তার একটা ব্যবস্থা করবেন।

The Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja SHAHABUDDIN: Sir, I oppose all the motions.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 32,000 for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the necessity of giving adequate pecuniary help, and supplying equipment for the purpose, as for example, iron pan, etc., to the people of salt-watered places to manufacture sufficient salt to make Bengal self-sufficient in this acute shortage of salt, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 32,000 for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about Gandhi-Irwin Pact, dated 5th March, 1931, regarding preparation of salt as a part of cottage industry and the facility of individual to procure bare necessaries for home consumption in exchange of salt manufactured by himself, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 32,000 for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the change of present system of monopoly agency of salt to a single person in one district which is the cause of black-marketing and autocracy and to select one agent from each "thana", *i.e.*, police-station, and one salt collecting agent from each union, thereby helping preparation of more salt and increase of Government duty, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 32,000 for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 20,000, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Khwaja Shahabuddin that a sum of Rs. 32,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "5—Salt" during the current year, was then put and agreed to.

7—Land Revenue.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 4,84,500 be granted for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" during the current year.

Khan Bahadur Haji BADI AHMED CHOWDHURY: Sir, I beg to move that the demand of Rs. 4,84,500 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about reduction of rent of lands under khasmahal estates in Bengal, specially in Chittagong district, where the rent of some of the estates was not reduced at all.

Sir, I also beg to move that the demand of Rs. 4,84,500 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about the reduction of process-fees for advertisement of revenue sale which is very high at present in Chittagong.

Sir, I also beg to move that the demand of Rs. 4,84,500 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion to abolish the present system of revenue sale of the jote mahals whose annual rent is below Rs. 50 in Chittagong.

Sir, I also beg to move that the demand of Rs. 4,84,500 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about the introduction of the system of serving notice to the debtor by registered post-card in the certificate sale of lands in addition to the "*estahar*".

Sir, I also beg to move that the demand of Rs. 4,84,500 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100, to raise a discussion about the reduction of the number of process-servers by re-introducing the system of serving notice to the landlord and co-sharer per registered post as before. The present system of serving the same by process-servers is causing much suffering to all parties concerned due to its irregular and misdelivery and corrupt practices.

আমি আমার নামের ১১-১২-১৪-১৬-১৯নং মোশন move করিতেছি। আমি মাননীয় রেভেনিউ মন্ত্রী মহোদয়কে অনুরোধ করিতেছি--তিনি একজন জমিদারগণের প্রতিনিধি এবং বড় জমিদার। তাঁহার প্রধান কর্ত্তব্য প্রজা পালন করা। অন্য মন্ত্রীদের অনেকের বা বেয়রদের অনেকের জমি-জমার সঙ্গে সম্পর্ক নাই। তাঁহারা এই সব বিষয় লইয়া হাসিয়া উঠেন। কাজেই বলিতেছি মন্ত্রী মহোদয় কয়েকটি বিষয় অনুগ্রহ করিয়া শ্রবণ করুন। তাহার পাশে অনারেবল খাঁবাহাদুর মোয়াজ্জেম উদ্দীন সাহেব আছেন। তিনি চট্টগ্রামে ছিলেন ৩।৪ বৎসর। নবাব মোশারফ হোসেন সাহেবও আছেন। তাঁহারা জানেন চট্টগ্রামে জমির অবস্থা কিরূপ।

খাঁবাহাদুর সাহেব ও আমার চেষ্টায় ফলে চট্টগ্রামে ১১ লক্ষ টাকা জমা মিনাহা দিয়ে এনেছেন। তাঁহার সময়ের অভাব, কতকগুলি মহলের জমা কমিয়ে দিয়ে আসতে পারেন নি এবং ১০৲ টাকার নীচের জমির মহলে হাত দিয়ে আসতে পারেন নি। তিনি বলিয়াছিলেন আমি যদি সময় পাই আর একবার আসব বা অন্য অফিসার দিয়ে এই সমস্ত জমা কমিয়ে দিয়ে আসবে। জমা না কমানর কারণে সেখানে লক্ষ লক্ষ টাকার সম্পত্তি ১৲ টাকা

মূল্যে খাস হয়ে গিয়েছে। এমন বহু সম্পত্তি ছেড়ে দিয়েছে যে সম্পত্তি ৫০ হাজার টাকা দিয়া লোক খরিদ করিয়াছে; সেই সম্পত্তিগুলো ১৲ টাকায় গভর্ণমেণ্ট খাস করিয়া নিয়াছে। অথবা ২৲৪৲৫৲-টাকায় অন্য লোক কিনিয়াছে। জমা কত বেশী হইয়াছিল তাহা অনুমান করিতে পারেন। ১১লাখ টাকা জমা বাদ দিয়াছে। কতকগুলি গরীব লোকই পায়নি, বড় বড় জমিদারই পাইয়াছে। যাদের জমিদারী বড়, হাজার হাজার টাকার জমার মহলে হাত দিয়েছিল। গরীব প্রজাদের জমা কমেনি। আমি অনুরোধ করি আমার কথার সত্যতা সম্বন্ধে খাঁ-বাহাদুর সাহেব নিজে গিয়া আধ ঘণ্টা-এক ঘণ্টা কালেক্টরের সঙ্গে এবং খাস মহল ডেপুটির সঙ্গে পরামর্শ করিয়া যে-সকল গরীবের জমা কমে নাই তাহা কমাইবার ব্যবস্থা করুন। মাননীয় মন্ত্রী মহোদয় গত বৎসর আমার একটি প্রশ্নের উত্তরে প্রতিশ্রুতি দিয়াছিলেন যে রেভেনিউ সেলের জন্য যে ইস্তাহার জারী করিতে হয় তাহার process-fee বর্ত্তমানে চট্টগ্রামে ৩৲ টাকা, ৩৷৷০ টাকা করিয়া নিতেছে। কিন্তু পূর্ব্বে প্রথা ছিল মাত্র ৸০ আনা খাজনা বাকী পড়ায় ১৲ টাকা process fee দিতে হয় এবং সেজন্য বলিয়াছিলেন অতি সত্বর ব্যবস্থা করিবেন। আপনি নিজে জমিদার, আপনি চট্টগ্রামে ছিলেন, কাজেই এই অবিচার দূর করিয়া যাহাতে সাবেক প্রথা হয় তাহার ব্যবস্থা করিবেন।

এই সঙ্গে আরও বলিতেছি ১৪নং মোশনে উল্লেখ আছে যদিও Land Revenue Act-এ জোত মহল প্রজা স্বত্ব নিলাম করিবার ক্ষমতা নাই, রেভেনিউ বোর্ডের সার্কুলার হইয়াছে বর্ত্তমান প্রজাস্বত্ব নিলাম করিতে। যারা বড় প্রজা তাহাদের প্রজাস্বত্ব নিলাম করায় আপত্তি নাই, কিন্তু ৫০৲ টাকার নীচের যে জমা সেই জমা ১১ আইনে সেলে তুলিলে সেই লোকটিকে চট্টগ্রাম সদরে আসিতে বিশেষ অসুবিধা ও অর্থব্যয় করিতে হয়। তার বাড়ী হয়ত টেকনাফ্--৫০ মাইল দূরে। তার কথা চিন্তা করুন। আমি অনুরোধ করি--৫০৲ টাকা নীচের গরীব প্রজার গলায় ফাঁস লট্‌কাইয়া না দিয়া সার্টিফিকেট প্রথা বা সিভিল কোর্টের প্রথা যাহা সুবিধা হয় সেই ব্যবস্থায় টাকা আদায় করার ব্যবস্থা করা উচিত। বড়কে মারেন আপত্তি নাই, কিন্তু গরীবকে মারিবেন না। ইঁহারা বলেন আমরা গরীবের পার্টি, লীগের পার্টি--এ যত চোরের পার্টি, কি কথা বলে তা দেখে না। কেহ কেহ বলে প্রজার পার্টি কিন্তু প্রজার গলায় রশি দিয়ে টেনে আনছে ১০০ মাইল দূর থেকে।

এই সঙ্গে বলিতেছি সিভিল কোর্টে জমি নিলাম করিবার সময় ইস্তাহার দেওয়া হয়, সঙ্গে সঙ্গে রেজিষ্টার্ড পোষ্টকার্ড দেওয়া উচিত। কালেক্টারী সার্টিফিকেট দিবার সময় পোষ্টকার্ড দিবার ব্যবস্থা নাই। সেজন্য জমিগুলি অজানাতে সেল হইয়া যায়। আমি অনুরোধ করি direct তার নামে রেজিষ্টার্ড পোষ্টকার্ড দিবার ব্যবস্থা করুন যেন জমি নিলাম হওয়ার আগে সে অবগত হয়। অন্ততঃ নিলামের সময়ে টের না পাইলেও ১ মাসের মধ্যে আসিয়া টাকা দিতে পারে। পোষ্টকার্ডের দরুণ যে খরচ হইবে সে খরচ তার নিকট হইতে আদায় করুন। সেই পোষ্টকার্ডের ব্যবস্থা পূর্ব্বে ছিল; বর্ত্তমান গভর্ণমেণ্ট শাসন হাতে নিবার পরে কেন যে উঠিয়া গেল জানি না। আশা করি এরূপ ক্ষেত্রে গরীব প্রজাদের জমি sale করিবার আগে রেজিষ্টার্ড পোষ্টকার্ড দিবার ব্যবস্থা করুন। (Laughter in the house) ইহাতে আমার নিজের স্বার্থ নাই। বাংলা দেশের জন্য আপনাদের সকলেরই ইহা করা দরকার। যদিও হাসি-ঠাট্টা করিতেছেন কিন্তু এটা হাসি-ঠাট্টার কথা নয়।

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: I formally oppose the motions. There is no time and I hope I will be able to discuss it during the budget discussion.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 4,84,500 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about reduction of rent of lands under khasmahal estates in Bengal, specially in Chittagong district, where the rent of some of the estates was not reduced at all, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 4,84,500 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the reduction of process-fees for advertisement or revenue sale which is very high at present in Chittagong, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 4,84,500 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion to abolish the present system of revenue sale of the jote mahals whose annual rent is below Rs. 50 in Chittagong, was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 4,84,500 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the introduction of the system of serving notice to the debtor by registered post-card in the certificate sale of lands in addition to the "*estahar*", was then put and lost.

The motion of Khan Bahadur Haji Badi Ahmed Chowdhury that the demand of Rs. 4,84,500 for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" during the current year be reduced by Rs. 100 to raise a discussion about the reduction of the number of process-servers by re-introducing the system of serving notice to the land-lord and co-sharer per registered post as before. The present system of serving the same by process-servers is causing much suffering to all parties concerned due to its misdelivery and corrupt practices, was then put and lost.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. Tarak Nath Mukerjea that a sum of Rs. 4,84,500 be granted for expenditure under the head "7—Land Revenue" during the current year was then put and agreed to.

8—Provincial Excise.

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,74,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "8—Provincial Excise" during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

10—Forest.

The Hon'ble Mr. PREMHARI BARMA: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 7,91,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "10—Forest" during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

11—Registration.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 1,63,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "11—Registration" during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

13—Other Taxes and Duties.

The Hon'ble Mr. TARAK NATH MUKERJEA: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 36,600 be granted for expenditure under the head "13—Other Taxes and Duties" during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

27—Administration of Justice.

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUFF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 10,86,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "27—Administration of Justice" during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

37—Education—Anglo-Indian and European.

The Hon'ble Mr. TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum of Rs. 8,100 be granted for expenditure under the head "37—Education—Anglo-Indian and European" during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

41—Veterinary.

The Hon'ble Khan Bahadur SAIYED MUAZZAMUDDIN HOSSAIN: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to mov that a sum of Rs. 1,06,400 be granted for expenditure under the "41—Veterinary" during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

42—Co-operation.

The Hon'ble Mr. JOGENDRA NATH MANDAL: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum o Rs. 1,33,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "42—Co-operation during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

55—Superannuation allowances and pensions and 55A—Commutation o pensions financed from ordinary revenues.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum o Rs. 11,17,300 be granted for expenditure under the head "55—Superannuation allowances and pensions and 55A—Commutation of pension financed from ordinary revenues" during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

56—Stationery and Printing and Depreciation Reserve Fund—Governmen Presses.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum o Rs. 4,54,300 be granted under the head "56—Stationery and Printing an Depreciation Reserve Fund—Government Presses" during the current yea

The motion was then put and agreed to.

57—Miscellaneous.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum o Rs. 3,97,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "57—Miscellaneous during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Interest-free Advances.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum o Rs. 12,30,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Interest-fre Advances" during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

Loans and Advances bearing interest.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum o Rs. 14,86,000 be granted for expenditure under the head "Loans an Advances bearing interest" during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

4—Taxes on Income other than Corporation Tax.

The Hon'ble Mr. TULSI CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I beg to move that a sum o Rs. 88,400 be granted for expenditure under the head "4—Taxes on incom other than Corporation Tax" during the current year.

The motion was then put and agreed to.

A

The House was then adjourned [illegible] p.m., till 4 p.m., on Monday the 12th March, 1945, at the Assembly House, Calcutta.

[illegible]